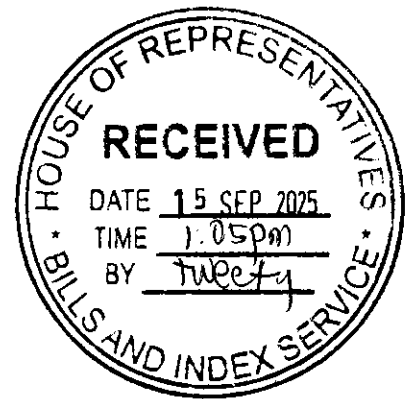


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4580



INTRODUCED BY HON. DANILO A. DOMINGO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a nation where agriculture sustains millions of livelihoods, the absence of reliable and properly built roads remains one of the biggest barriers to rural progress and food security. Every day, Filipino farmers and fisherfolk face the challenge of transporting their goods across narrow, unsafe, and poorly constructed roads, which not only compromise their livelihood but also hinder the delivery of food to our markets and tables.

Despite the significant role that Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) and National Irrigation Authority (NIA) roads serve in the agricultural value chain, they remain insufficient, unsafe, and unsustainable in light of the fact that many are still narrow one-way roads. This gap undermines the very goals of agricultural modernization and rural development mandated in our national policies.

This bill seeks to establish clear and consistent standards for the minimum carriageway and shoulder widths for all FMRs and NIA roads. By mandating a two-way roadway with a minimum width of 5.0 to 6.1 meters, depending on traffic volume, and 1.5-meter shoulders on each side, this proposed measure ensures the safe and efficient movement of goods and vehicles in rural areas.

Through this legislative measure, we aim to establish a unified framework that enhances the quality and utility of rural road infrastructure in support of national agricultural modernization goals.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


DANILO A. DOMINGO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4580

INTRODUCED BY HON. DANILO A. DOMINGO

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE STANDARD MINIMUM ROAD CARRIAGEWAY AND SHOULDER WIDTHS OF FARM TO MARKET ROADS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435 OR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997 AND ROADS CONSTRUCTED BY THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION AUTHORITY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Definitions. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) Average Daily Traffic (ADT)** refers to the expected average number of vehicles passing a roadway on an average day;
- (b) Farm to Market Road (FMR)** refer to roads linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and post-harvest facilities to the market and arterial roads and highways, as defined under Republic Act No. 8435;
- (c) National Irrigation Authority Road (NIA Road)** refer to any and all roads constructed or to be constructed by the National Irrigation Authority in accordance with Republic Act No. 3601, otherwise known as "An Act Granting the National Irrigation Administration", as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552;
- (d) Right-of-Way (ROW)** refers to a part or the entirety of the property, site, or location with defined physical boundaries used or required for the implementation of the FMR and/or NIA Road projects;
- (e) Road carriageway** refers to the portion of a road intended for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders; and
- (f) Road shoulder or Shoulder** refers to the portion of the roadway contiguous with the road carriageway for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support of base and surface courses.

SEC. 2. Standard Minimum Road Carriageway and Shoulder Widths. To ensure the safety and convenient movement of vehicles, all FMRs and NIA Roads shall have a

minimum of a two-way roadway with minimum road carriageway widths and minimum shoulder widths as follows:

- a. 5.0 meters with a minimum shoulder width of 1.5 meters on each side for ADT of less than 200 vehicles, and
- b. 6.1 meters with a minimum shoulder width of 1.5 meters on each side for ADT of 200 vehicles and above.

The road carriageway width shall be measured from the inner edge of the roadway shoulder to the opposite side of the inner edge of the roadway shoulder.

SEC. 2. *Increase of Minimum Road Carriageway and Shoulder Widths and Provision for Other Road Standards.* The Department of Public Works and Highways, in consultation with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, Department of Agriculture, and National Irrigation Authority, may increase the minimum road carriageway width and minimum shoulder widths prescribed herein, as needed, and shall further provide for the other minimum requirements for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of FMRs and NIA Roads.

SEC. 3. *Appropriation for Right-of-Way Acquisition.* The government may acquire real property needed as right-of-way site or location for the FMR or NIA road projects through donation, negotiated sale, expropriation, or any other mode of acquisition in accordance with existing laws. The government shall likewise provide adequate appropriations that will allow the concerned implementing agencies to acquire the required right-of-way site or location for the FMR or NIA road projects in advance of project implementation to ensure that the minimum standards set forth herein are complied with.

SEC. 4. *Transitory Clause.* - All Farm to Market Roads and NIA Roads constructed prior to the effectivity of this Act that are not in conformity with the minimum road carriageway width and minimum shoulder widths set forth herein shall be upgraded to conform to these standards within a period of two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect. .

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,