

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5321



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many teachers, especially those in public schools, travel long distances daily to and from their assigned schools. Public school teachers frequently spend 10-20% of their salary on transportation alone, and these costs add up daily. By granting a twenty percent fare discount, teachers can save a substantial amount from their take-home pay monthly, easing their cost of living.

In order to assist our teachers in the fulfillment of their noble profession of instilling life skills and value to our school children, as well as to better recognize their efforts and contributions to our nation-building, it is incumbent upon the State to grant these types of financial relief to them, enabling them to make ends meet, and focus more on the practice of the teaching profession.

This measure is in line with the Constitution's mandate to enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement and to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies and provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

This Teacher Fare Discount Act seeks to provide fare discount privilege to teachers in all modes of public transportation by institutionalizing mechanisms that will ensure uniformed implementation both at the national and local level.

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


MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES TO TEACHERS ON ALL
MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISM
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as "*Teacher Fare Discount Act.*"

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall establish a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of discounts for teachers, enlist the cooperation and support of public transportation utilities in providing assistance to teachers as a social responsibility through the observance of this privilege, and encourage teachers to pursue quality teaching practice in the exercise of their profession.

Sec. 3. Definition of terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the term:

- a) *Teacher* refers to any Filipino citizen who are in actual practice of teaching profession in elementary and high school;
- b) *School days* refers to the entire duration of the school year during which teachers are engaged in teaching excluding term breaks;
- c) *Public Transportation utilities* refers to natural or juridical person engaged in the business of transporting passengers or goods, by land, water, or air for compensation offering their services to the public;
- d) *Owner* refers to the actual legal owner of a vehicle, in whose name such vehicle is duly registered with the Department of Transportation; and
- e) *Driver* refers to every and any licensed operator of a motor vehicle.

Sec. 4. Teacher Fare Discount Privilege. - A teacher shall be entitled to a twenty (20%) percent discount on the regular domestic fares of all kinds of public transportation

utilities upon the presentation of duly issued and validated school employee's identification cards. In the absence of a valid school employee identification card, a Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Identification Card issued to licensed teachers shall be sufficient. *Provided*, that this privilege may be availed of only during school days.

Sec. 5. *Complaint Mechanism.* – A teacher who is refused the fare discount privilege under this Act, may file a complaint with:

- a) The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for land public transportation utilities, including vehicles registered under ride-hailing applications;
- b) The Maritime Industry Authority for sea public transportation utilities;
- c) The Legal Service of the Department of Transportation for rail public transportation facilities; and
- d) The Office of the Local Chief Executive of the Local Government Units concerned for tricycles.

These agencies and offices are hereby authorized to impose penalties provided for in Section 6 of the Act on public transportation utilities that refuse or fail to grant the teacher fare discount privilege.

Sec. 6. *Penalties.* – The following penalties shall be imposed or refusal or failure to grant the teacher fare discount privilege provided under this Act:

a) For land public transportation utilities, including tricycles and ride-hailing application vehicles:

The driver shall suffer the penalty of suspension of driver's license for:

- 1) One (1) week for the first offense;
- 2) Two (2) weeks for the second offense; and
- 3) Three (3) weeks plus a fine of one thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) for each subsequent offense.

The driver shall be likewise responsible for refusal or failure to grant fare discount, for a fine of not less than:

- 1) One thousand (Php1,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2) Five thousand (Php5,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) Ten thousand (Php10,000.00) for the third offense; and
- 4) Additional increment of five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) on top of the penalty for the third offense for each subsequent offense.

The operator and owner of the land public transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with the driver/employee concerned for refusal or failure to grant fare discount.

b.) For sea, water or air public transportation utilities:

The owner, operator and the chief of operations, of the sea, water or air public transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with its employee or agent for refusal or failure to grant fare discount, for a fine of not less than:

- 1) Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2) Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) Twenty thousand pesos (Php25,000.00) for the third offense; and
- 4) Additional increments of ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) on top of the penalty for the third offense for each subsequent offense.

c.) For rail public transportation utilities:

The operator and the chief of operation of the rail public transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with its employee or agent for refusal or failure to grant fare discount, for a fine of not less than:

- 1) One thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2) Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for the third offense; and
- 4) Additional increments of five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) on top of the penalty for the third offense for each subsequent offense.

Sec.7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall, after consultation with the concerned government agencies, promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementations of this Act.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision or portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9.Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved

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