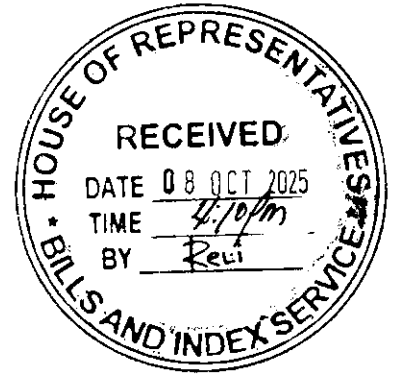




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5335**

Introduced by Representative Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers serve as the lifeblood of the Philippine transportation system. Day in and day out, they ferry millions of Filipinos to work, school, and other vital destinations. Whether they are behind the wheel of jeepneys, buses, taxis, or tricycles, these drivers provide a crucial public service that sustains economic activity, connects communities, and enhances mobility across the country.

Despite their crucial role in sustaining the country's economy and keeping communities connected, PUV drivers are among the most economically vulnerable sectors in society. Many of them are minimum wage earners who struggle daily to make ends meet. Compounding this reality is the financial burden they must shoulder to apply for or renew their professional driver's licenses, a requirement they must meet just to continue earning a living. These expenses, though routine for many, can be significant for our PUV drivers, who often operate without job security, benefits, or sufficient daily income.

In recognition of the essential role that PUV drivers fulfill and the economic challenges they face, this bill seeks to institutionalize meaningful support. The "Public Utility Vehicles Drivers' License Assistance Act" proposes the exemption of PUV drivers from paying fees related to the application and renewal of their professional driver's licenses. Furthermore, the bill mandates the establishment of dedicated priority lanes at all Land Transportation Office (LTO) branches nationwide to streamline the application and renewal process for these drivers, minimizing time away from work and income loss.

By enacting this measure, the government affirms its commitment to the welfare of our PUV drivers, acknowledging their indispensable contribution to public service and working to ease the burdens they face in their line of duty.

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


RAMON RODRIGO L. GUTIERREZ
1-Rider Partylist Representative



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HOUSE BILL NO. **5335**

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AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVERS BY
WAIVING FEES FOR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND
RENEWALS AND MANDATING PRIORITY LANES IN LAND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICES

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 the **PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVERS' LICENSE ASSISTANCE ACT**.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to promote social justice in all phases of national development and to protect the marginalized sectors of society, particularly drivers and operators of public utility vehicles, in vital recognition of the important role they play in economic growth and development.

Towards this end, the State shall provide appropriate assistance to public utility vehicle drivers by exemption them from the payment of fees related to the application and renewal of their professional driver's licenses, and by ensuring the establishment of dedicated priority lanes at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to streamline their application process.

SECTION 3. Definition of Public Utility Vehicle. - For purposes of this Act, a Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) shall refer to road-based motor vehicles that carry passengers and/or domestic cargo for a fee, offering services to the public, namely: (i) public utility buses, (ii) public utility jeepneys, (iii) UV express service, (iv) taxis, (v) filcabs, and (vi) tricycles: *Provided*, that transport vehicles accredited with and operating through transport network corporations shall not be considered as public utility vehicles.

SECTION 4. Exemption From Payment of Fees and Charges. - Except for the payment of fees required to be paid to institutions, government or otherwise, providing services and documents necessary to complete the requirements for a professional driver's license as required by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), such as but not limited to medical or eye examinations from accredited clinics of the LTO, ID pictures, birth certificates and the like, no fees or charges shall be

collected by the LTO in connection with the application or renewal of the professional driver's license of PUV drivers.

SECTION 5. *Requirements for Exemption.* – Before the exemption authorized under this Act may be availed of, the applicant must present a certificate from the local government unit issued by the chief local executive of the barangay where he is a resident certifying that he is included in the validated list of PUV drivers. The certification to be issued by the concerned barangay local chief executive shall be called “PUV OPERATOR/DRIVER CERTIFICATE”. Such PUV Operator/Driver Certificate may be issued by the local chief executive concerned upon presentation of any proof, which may include LTFRB Franchise, ID issued by a transport organization and TODA membership.

SECTION 6. *Penalties for Falsification or Misrepresentation.* – Any person who knowingly submits falsified documents or intentionally provides false information to obtain the exemption under this Act shall be subject to a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and shall be perpetually disqualified from claiming the exemption afforded by this Act, without prejudice to any other liabilities under existing laws.

SECTION 7. *Special Lanes for PUV Drivers.* – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall set up special service lanes or counters in all its licensing branches across the country that are specifically designated for Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers. These lanes shall facilitate faster and more efficient processing of their applications for new or renewed professional driver's licenses.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Transportation (DOTr), in close coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

