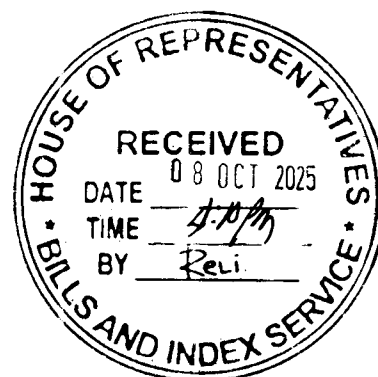




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **5342**

Introduced by Representative Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.” Moreover, Section 2(3) of the same Article further emphasizes that the State shall “establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.”

In pursuit of this Constitutional directive, Republic Act No. 11314 or the “Student Fare Discount Act” was enacted to ease the financial burden on students by granting them a 20% fare discount on all forms of public transportation. This includes public utility buses (PUBs), public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis and other similar vehicles-for-hire, tricycles, passenger trains, aircrafts, and marine vessels.

While Republic Act No. 11314 has provided significant relief to students and their families, its implementation has revealed areas for improvement. Among these is the limitation in its applicability to tickets or fares purchased in person, which does not reflect current realities where transportation fares are increasingly purchased online. Additionally, the law currently excludes post-graduate students—an exclusion that undermines the principle of providing equal access to quality education at all levels.

This bill, therefore, seeks to strengthen and broaden the reach of the original law. The proposed amendments include:

1. Expanding the scope of the student fare discount to include post-graduate students, recognizing that students pursuing master’s, doctoral, or other post-graduate degrees also face transportation-related financial burdens in their educational journey;
2. Including transportation fares or tickets purchased online within the coverage of the discount to reflect current consumer practices and ensure that students are not denied their rightful privileges simply due to the mode of purchase; and
3. Mandating a comprehensive public awareness campaign to inform students of their rights and how to avail of the fare discount, as well as to ensure that all operators of public transportation services are

made fully aware of their obligations, the scope of the law, and the consequences of non-compliance.

This proposed measure aims not only to update the implementation of the Student Fare Discount Act in light of technological advancements, but also to uphold the Constitutional vision of making education truly accessible to all Filipinos—regardless of the level of learning they pursue or the platform through which they access transportation services.

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. 5342

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11314, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT ACT”, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 11314 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act:

- a) Student refers to any Filipino citizen enrolled in a duly authorized elementary, secondary, technical-vocational, or higher education institution **INCLUDING THOSE ENROLLED IN POST GRADUATE DEGREE COURSES. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE ENROLLED IN INFORMAL SHORT-TERM COURSES SUCH AS DANCING, SWIMMING, MUSIC AND DRIVING LESSONS AND SEMINAR-TYPE COURSES;**
- b) xxx
- c) xxx”

SECTION 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11314 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 5. *Student Fare Discount Privilege.* - **A STUDENT UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A GRANT OF TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON DOMESTIC REGULAR FARES. THE DISCOUNT SHALL APPLY WHETHER THE FARE OR TICKET IS PURCHASED IN PERSON OR THROUGH ONLINE OR ELECTRONIC PLATFORMS: PROVIDED, THAT THE STUDENT PRESENTS OR UPLOADS THEIR PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY IN THE FORM OF A DULY ISSUED SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID) OR CURRENT VALIDATED ENROLLMENT FORM AND SUPPORTED BY THE PRESCRIBED GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT, SUBJECT TO AN APPROPRIATE VERIFICATION MECHANISM TO BE PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR): PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN THE CASE OF AIR TRANSPORTATION UTILITIES,**

THE DISCOUNT SHALL ONLY APPLY TO THE BASE FARE OR THE PRICE OF THE TICKET BEFORE TAXES AND COSTS FOR ANCILLARY SERVICES.”

SECTION 3. The same Act is hereby further amended by adding a new section to be denominated as Section 12, to read as follows:

“Section 12. *Public Awareness Campaign.* - The Department of Transportation (DOTr), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall conduct a nationwide public awareness campaign to effectively inform students of their rights and privileges under this Act, including the conditions, scope, and procedures for availing of the student fare discount.

The campaign shall also aim to ensure that all operators of public transportation services, including land, air, water, and rail transport, are made aware of their duties and responsibilities under this Act, including the proper granting of fare discounts and the penalties for non-compliance.

The campaign shall include, but not be limited to, the production and dissemination of informational materials through schools, public transport terminals, social media platforms, government websites, and traditional media outlets such as radio, print, and television.

It shall be mandatory for transport terminals and operators to display visible signage informing students of their fare discount privileges pursuant to this Act. Schools and training institutions shall also be encouraged to disseminate the law’s provisions during orientation programs and through official school communications.”

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the LTFRB for land transport, the MARINA for sea/water transport, CAB for air transport and the DOTr for rail transport shall respectively promulgate the new implementing rules and regulations covering their sectors, taking into consideration the government central identification platform, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippine Statistics Authority, other concerned government agencies, and the public transport utility operators and stakeholders.

SECTION 5. *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 6. *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 7. *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.