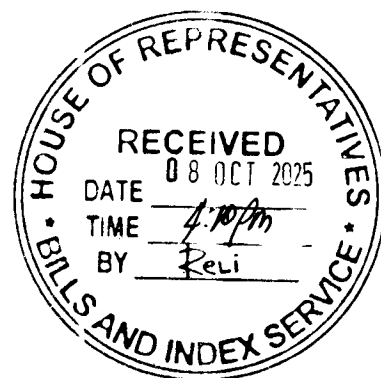




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5344



Introduced by Representative Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fuel prices in the Philippines have been continuously rising week in and week out this 2025. This persistent increase in fuel costs has placed a tremendous burden on various sectors of our economy, but more than anyone, it is our public transport sector, particularly the operators and drivers of public utility vehicles (PUVs), who are bearing the brunt of this crisis.

PUV operators and drivers, who serve as the backbone of our mass transport system, are already grappling with the high cost of living and the economic aftershocks of recent global and local disruptions. Their daily income, which is already meager, is being further diminished by the relentless escalation of fuel prices. These hardworking individuals, many of whom belong to the marginalized sectors of our society, can hardly make ends meet as operational costs continue to rise while passenger fares remain regulated and limited by law.

In view of the foregoing, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Public Transport Assistance Program (PTAP), more commonly known as the *Pantawid Pasada Fuel Program*, originally established under Executive Order No. 32, Series of 2011. By making this program a permanent government initiative through legislation, the State will be able to provide regular and timely cash assistance to affected PUV operators and drivers, including those operating buses, taxis, vans for hire, jeepneys, multicabs, tricycles, and motorcycle taxis.

A similar measure was introduced in the 19th Congress but unfortunately did not become law. Now, with fuel prices soaring even higher in the current 20th Congress, and given the indispensable role of PUV operators and drivers in our public transport system and national economy, this representation is refiling the bill with renewed urgency and determination.

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


RAMON RODRIGO L. GUTIERREZ
1-Rider Partylist Representative



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5344

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROVIDING FOR THE PURPOSE FUEL SUBSIDY TO PUBLIC UTILITY
VEHICLE OPERATORS AND DRIVERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 **PANTAWID PASADA FUEL PROGRAM ACT**.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uplift the standard of living and improve the quality of life of public utility operators and drivers in recognition of their role as primary movers of the economy. Towards this end, the State shall enact laws that will mitigate the impact of fuel price hikes by providing fuel subsidy to qualified public utility vehicle operators and drivers.

SECTION 3. Public Transport Assistance Program (PTAP). - The Public Transport Assistance Program (PTAP), as embodied in Executive Order No. 32, Series No. 2011, is hereby established and institutionalized as a regular program of the national government to address the adverse effects of oil price increase to operators and drivers of public utility vehicles. The cash subsidy shall be given to qualified beneficiaries in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

SECTION 4. Qualified Beneficiaries. - The cash subsidy shall be given to operators and drivers of road-based motor vehicles that provide conveyance to the general public such as bus, jeepneys, and tricycles as determined by the LTFRB. Operators of public utility vehicles maintaining a fleet of more than five (5) units are excluded from availing cash subsidies under this Act. The LTFRB, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall maintain a list of qualified beneficiaries for a period of ten (10) years and shall conduct a revalidation of beneficiaries every two (2) years.

SECTION 5. Amount of Subsidy. - The amount of subsidy shall be based on the following schemes:

- a) Bus Operators and Drivers shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P7,500.00) but not more than TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00);
- b) Taxi and Van for Hire Operators and Drivers shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) but not more than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P7,500.00);
- c) Jeepney and Multicab Operators and Drivers shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) but not more than SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P7,500.00); and
- d) Tricycle and Motorcycle Taxi (Habal Habal) Operators and Drivers shall receive a one-time subsidy per year which shall not be less than THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) but not more than FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

SECTION 6. *Advisory Council.* – An Advisory Council is hereby created to determine the amount of cash subsidy which shall be given to qualified beneficiaries, composed of the following:

- a) Secretary of Transportation as Chairperson;
- b) Chairperson of the LTFRB as Co-chairperson;
- c) Secretary of Energy;
- d) Secretary of Labor;
- e) Secretary of Budget and Management;
- f) Secretary of Finance; and
- g) Secretary of Interior and Local Government; as members.

The Advisory Council shall meet at least twice a year for its regular meeting and may call a special meeting in case of extraordinary increase in the price of fuel. The secretariat of the LTFRB shall act as the secretariat of the Advisory Council.

SECTION 7. *Report of the Program* – The LTFRB shall annually publish a full report of the PTAP covering its implementation. The report shall be submitted to the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

SECTION 8. *Transparency Program.* – The LTFRB shall regularly and timely post an update on its website a report of financial disclosures and information about the PTAP's beneficiaries based on geographical areas, social, economic and cultural circumstances.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOTr. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the LTFRB and the Secretary of the DOTr shall, in coordination with the Members of the Advisory Council, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act

SECTION 11. *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 12. *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 13. *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,