



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5352

Introduced by Representative Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road accidents remain one of the leading causes of death and injury in the Philippines. Every year, thousands of lives are lost and even more are injured due to traffic mishaps, leaving behind grieving families and a significant social and economic burden on the nation.

While all road accidents are regrettable, those involving heavy vehicles, such as buses, trucks, and other large vehicles, are often far more devastating due to their sheer size and weight. When a heavy vehicle loses control, the resulting damage and casualties are typically greater than that of smaller vehicles, leading to higher fatality rates, more injuries, and extensive property damage.

A tragic and recent reminder of this occurred on December 6, 2024, when a 10-wheeler truck lost its brakes while traversing the Katipunan flyover in Quezon City. The vehicle barreled into traffic, leading to a catastrophic crash that claimed four lives and caused injuries to twenty-six (26) others. The accident was reportedly due to mechanical failure—a sobering example of how lack of proper maintenance and inspection of heavy vehicles can lead to deadly consequences.

In light of such events, it is clear that heavy vehicles must be held to a higher standard of maintenance and regulation. Given the greater risks they pose to both drivers and the public, there is a compelling need for stricter, regular oversight of their roadworthiness.

This bill, the “Heavy Vehicle Preventive Maintenance and Inspection Act,” seeks to address this urgent public safety issue by mandating the monthly preventive maintenance and quarterly inspection of all buses, trucks, and other heavy vehicles by the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The bill also provides for penalties for failure to comply with these maintenance and inspection requirements, thereby ensuring accountability among owners and operators of heavy vehicles.

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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AN ACT
MANDATING MONTHLY PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND QUARTERLY
INSPECTIONS OF BUSES, TRUCKS, AND OTHER HEAVY VEHICLES TO
PREVENT ROAD ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY MECHANICAL FAILURE AND TO
ENSURE ROAD SAFETY

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 **HEAVY VEHICLE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION ACT**.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure public safety on roads by preventing road accidents caused by mechanical failures of heavy vehicles. Towards this end, the State shall require the regular maintenance and inspection of all buses, trucks, and other heavy vehicles operating within the country.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

- a) *Heavy Vehicles* refer to buses, trucks, and other motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 4,500 kilograms;
- b) *Preventive Maintenance* refers to scheduled inspections, servicing and repairs intended to prevent mechanical failures and ensure optimal vehicle performance.

SECTION 4. Monthly Preventive Maintenance. - All heavy vehicles operating within the Philippines shall be required to undergo monthly preventive maintenance to ensure their safe operation: *Provided*, that such maintenance shall include, but not limited to, through checks of the engine and break systems, tire condition and alignment, steering and suspension systems, lighting and signaling devices, fluid levels, leak detection, and emission levels: *Provided, further*, that the preventive maintenance must be performed by a Land Transportation Office (LTO)-accredited service center: *Provided, finally*, that a Monthly Preventive Maintenance Report shall be issued upon completion of the monthly preventive maintenance.

SECTION 5. *Quarterly Inspection by the Land Transportation Office (LTO).* – All heavy vehicles shall be required to undergo quarterly inspection by the LTO or an LTO-accredited Motor Vehicle Inspection Center (MVIC). A Certificate of Roadworthiness shall be issued upon successful completion of the inspection.

SECTION 6. *Maintenance and Inspection Records.* – All registered owners and/or operators of heavy vehicles shall maintain and keep a copy of the following records onboard each vehicle at all times:

- a) Monthly Preventive Maintenance Report issued by the LTO-accredited service center; and
- b) Certificate of Roadworthiness issued by the LTO or an accredited Motor Vehicle Inspection Center (MVIC).

These documents shall be kept for a minimum period of two (2) years and shall be readily available for inspection by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), or any law enforcement officer, upon request.

Failure to maintain or present these documents upon lawful inspection shall give rise to the presumption that the vehicle has not complied with the mandatory monthly preventive maintenance or quarterly inspection requirements under this Act. Such failure shall subject the registered owner or operator to the penalties provided in Section 7 of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* – Any owner or operator who fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a) First Offense – Fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00);
- b) Second Offense – Fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and suspension of vehicle registration for two (2) months;
- c) Third and Subsequent Offenses – Fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and suspension of vehicle registration for six (6) months.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), in consultation with the appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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.