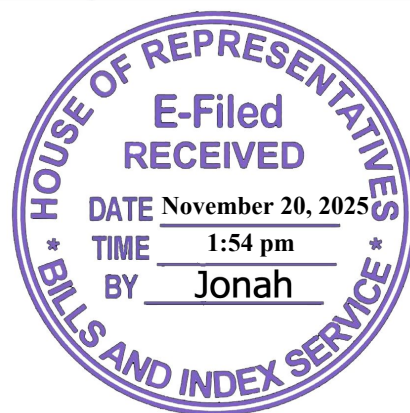


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6258



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

AN ACT
EXEMPTING PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVERS FROM PAYING FEES AND
CHARGES IMPOSED BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN
CONNECTION WITH THE APPLICATION AND RENEWAL OF THEIR
PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to exempt public utility vehicle drivers from paying government fees and charges imposed by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in connection with application and renewal of their professional driver's license.

Public transport remains to be the bedrock of mass mobility in urban and rural settings, and will continue to be so in the future as private transport brings forth a different set of problems on cost and congestion. As a convenient and affordable mode of mobility of people and goods, public transport plays the crucial role of linking ordinary Filipinos and products with the country's economic and business centers, which is crucial in warming our economic engine.

It is noteworthy to state that the key players in the public transport sector, drivers of public utility vehicles, are predominantly minimum-wage earners. Some now even earn below the minimum wage as rising fuel costs affect profitability and passenger volume. The insufficiency of income is thus a challenge in applying for a professional driver's license and fulfilling the requirements for the process.

In the countryside, a number of tricycle drivers do not possess professional driver's license issued by LTO. This is attributable to the high cost of applying of a professional driver's license. Recently, LTO also required the submission of a Practical Driving Course certificate from LTO-accredited driving schools. Considering the exorbitant cost of enrollment in driving schools, it is nearly impossible for PUV drivers to comply with the LTO requirement due to their lack of financial wherewithal.

In consideration of the socio-economic plight of our PUV drivers, this bill seeks to exempt PUV drivers from the payment of fees and charges for the issuance of professional driver's license imposed by the LTO to ease their financial burden and encourage them to apply or renew their license.

Currently, LTO charges One Hundred Pesos (P100.00) for Application Fee and Five Hundred Eighty Five Pesos (P585.00) for License Fee. Over and above these charges, applicants are required to undergo medical examination, which costs around Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). Under the proposed measure, the charges imposed by LTO shall be waived, giving some relief to the PUV driver. Expenses incurred for professional services and documents to complete the requirements are not included.

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



MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

1st District of Nueva Ecija

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Free Public Utility Vehicles Driver’s License Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to protect marginalized groups, particularly drivers and operators of public utility vehicles (PUVs), in vital recognition of the important role they play in economic growth and development.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Public Utility Vehicle.* – For purposes of this Act, Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) shall refer to internal combustion engine vehicles that carry passengers and/or domestic cargo for a fee, offering services to the public, namely trucks-for-hire, UV express service, public utility buses (PUBs), public utility jeepneys (PUJs), tricycles, filcabs, and taxis: *Provided*, That transport vehicles accredited with and operating through transport network corporations shall not be considered as public utility vehicles.

SEC. 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 drivers of PUVs.

SEC. 5. *Requirement for Exemption.* – Before the exemption authorized under this Act may be availed of, the applicant must be included in the validated list of drivers of PUVs of the local government unit concerned and must present a certification from the local chief executive of

the barangay where the driver resides or the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) before the LTO. The Certification to be issued by the concerned 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 transport organizations and TODA membership.

SEC. 6. *Regular Monitoring.* – The Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board shall monitor the implementation of the program and report its status every two (2) years in order to ensure the attainment of the goals of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,