

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6979**



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The travel tax, imposed under Executive Order No. 283 and its subsequent amendments, remains a significant financial burden for many Filipinos traveling abroad. Currently set at ₱2,700 for first-class passengers and ₱1,620 for economy-class passengers, the tax affects millions of outbound travellers annually.

While the ₱7.8 billion generated in 2024 and the ₱3.9 billion collected in the first half of 2025 provide crucial funding to the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the burden of the travel tax is felt most acutely by vulnerable and lower-income sectors of society.¹ For many of them, the travel tax represents a substantial additional cost that restricts mobility, limits family reunification, and hampers access to overseas opportunities.

In addition to these vulnerable groups, middle-income Filipino households, such as teachers, nurses, small business owners, and government employees, also shoulder the full tax despite modest and often fixed incomes. Although not traditionally classified as vulnerable, these families make up the majority of economy-class travellers and frequently experience financial strain. A ₱1,620 tax per traveller, for example, means that a family of four must pay ₱6,480 in travel taxes alone which is an amount equivalent to several days’ wages for many Filipino workers.

These realities highlight the need to review and update the current travel tax framework. By expanding exemptions to vulnerable sectors, this bill seeks to ensure that the travel tax system is more equitable, sensitive to socioeconomic disparities, and aligned with the principle of progressive taxation. Doing so eases the burden on those least able to afford it while maintaining necessary revenue for national development programs.

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


REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO
1 Tahanan Party List

¹ Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA). “From Crisis to Comeback: TIEZA Rebounds with ₱7.8B Revenue, Nationwide Projects.” <https://tieza.gov.ph/from-crisis-to-comeback-tieza-rebounds-with-%E2%82%B17-8b-revenue-nationwide-projects/>

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1
2 **AN ACT EXPANDING TRAVEL TAX EXEMPTIONS TO INCLUDE STUDENTS,**
3 **SENIOR CITIZENS, OVERSEAS FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS, PANTAWID**
4 **PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) BENEFICIARIES, SOLO PARENTS, AND**
5 **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**
6 **283, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

8 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Expanded Travel Tax*
9 *Exemption Act of 2025.*"

10 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall promote inclusive and people-
11 centered policies that recognize the dignity of all persons and provide equitable access to
12 opportunities for mobility and development. The State further recognizes that while travel tax
13 revenues support vital national programs, such taxation must be balanced with the constitutional
14 mandate to prioritize the welfare of vulnerable sectors.

15 **SEC. 3. *Expanded Exemptions from Travel Tax.*** – In addition to existing exemptions
16 under Executive Order No. 283, as amended, the following persons shall be exempt or granted
17 discounts from the payment of travel tax:

- 18 a) *Full Exemption* – The following shall be fully exempted from travel tax upon presentation
19 of valid proof:
- 20 a. *Students* – All Filipino students enrolled in accredited educational institutions from
21 early childhood education through college/vocational studies, upon presentation of
22 valid school identification card, certificate of enrollment, or letter from the
23 institution certifying student status.
- 24
25 b. *Senior Citizens* – All Filipino citizens sixty (60) years of age and above, upon
26 presentation of Senior Citizen Identification Card issued pursuant to Republic Act
27 No. 9994, as amended, or valid government-issued identification showing date of
28 birth.

- 1 c. *4Ps Beneficiaries* – Active beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
2 Program, upon presentation of 4Ps Identification Card or Beneficiary Card issued
3 by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
4
5 d. *Indigenous Peoples* – Members of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous
6 peoples, upon presentation of Certificate of Confirmation of Indigenous
7 Community Membership issued by the National Commission on Indigenous
8 Peoples (NCIP) or other valid proof recognized by NCIP.
9
10 e. *Solo Parents* – Persons qualified as solo parents under Republic Act No. 8972, upon
11 presentation of Solo Parent Identification Card issued by the city or municipal
12 government or Solo Parent Certificate issued by the proper authority.

13 **SEC. 4. *Non-Transferability.*** – The travel tax exemption or discount granted under this
14 Act is personal to the qualified beneficiary and non-transferable.

15 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
16 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in consultation with TIEZA, and other relevant
17 agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
18 Act.

19 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
21 and effect.

22 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
23 the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

24 *Approved,*