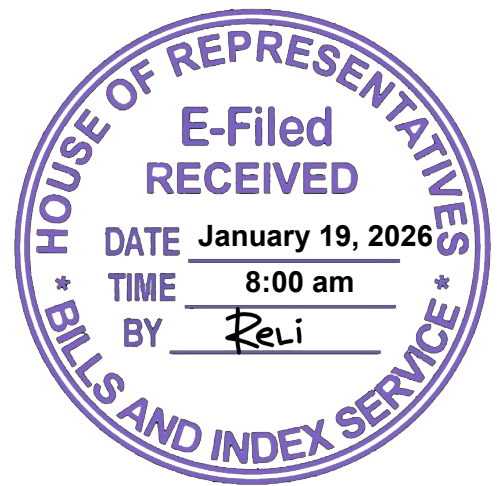




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7170

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the inherent dignity of every human person and mandates the State to promote social justice and inclusivity. Consistent with this mandate, Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, and the Philippines’ obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) require the State to ensure that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are able to access public services, facilities, and infrastructure on an equal basis with others.

Transportation remains one of the areas where PWDs faced most persistent and disabling barriers. Despite existing accessibility laws and policies, many public transportation modes, terminals, roads, and related infrastructure remain physically inaccessible, unsafe, or operationally exclusionary. As a result, PWDs continue to experience restricted mobility, limited access to employment and education, increased exposure to risk, and discrimination in daily travel.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by institutionalizing a comprehensive, nationwide Accessible and Safe Transportation Program for persons with disabilities. Rather than relying on fragmented compliance or isolated local initiatives, the measure establishes a coordinated national framework under the Department of Transportation, in partnership with the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and local government units.

The bill mandates clear accessibility standards for public utility vehicles, grounded in universal design principles, and provides a structured transition toward compliance through inspection systems, capacity-building, and incentive mechanisms for small and medium transport operators. It likewise ensures that accessibility is not limited to vehicles alone, but extends to pick-up and drop-off points, terminals, sidewalks, and supporting infrastructure that are essential to a complete and functional transport journey.

Recognizing that accessibility is not purely a technical issue, the measure requires mandatory disability sensitivity and operations training for drivers, conductors,

and terminal personnel. This ensures that physical accessibility is matched by respectful, non-discriminatory, and safe service delivery.

The bill further strengthens accountability by establishing regular monitoring, public transparency mechanisms, and graduated penalties for non-compliance, while observing due process. Collected fines are earmarked for accessibility compliance, reinforcing the sustainability of the program.

By instituting a rights-based, systems-oriented approach to accessible transportation, this measure aims to enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in education, employment, civic life, and the economy. Accessible transportation is not a special privilege, but a prerequisite for equality, independence, and dignity.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7170

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the *"Persons with*
2 *Disabilities Accessible and Safe Transportation Act."*
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to uphold the rights
5 of persons with disabilities in accordance with Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta
6 for Persons with Disabilities), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons
7 with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and all related laws. The State shall ensure the availability
8 of safe, accessible, inclusive, and affordable transportation systems that enable the
9 full participation of persons with disabilities in social and economic life.
10

11 **SEC. 3. National Accessible Transportation and Mobility Program.** – A
12 comprehensive transportation and mobility program for persons with disabilities is
13 hereby instituted under the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in coordination with
14 the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Department of Public Works and
15 Highways (DPWH), and local government units (LGUs).
16

17 The Program shall develop national standards, transition timelines, inspection
18 systems, compliance protocols, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure the
19 accessibility of all public transportation modes and related infrastructure.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Accessibility Standards for Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs).** – All PUV
22 operators and owners shall ensure that their vehicles comply with accessibility
23 standards prescribed by the DOTr, consistent with universal design principles and the
24 DPWH Accessibility Law Implementing Rules and Regulations.
25

26 PUVs shall provide, as applicable:

- a. Passenger boarding ramps or lifts;
- b. Designated wheelchair spaces with securement systems and safety locks;
- c. Appropriate grab bars, handrails, and priority seating;
- d. Non-slip flooring and visual-tactile indicators;
- e. Audible and visual notification systems; and
- f. Any other safety and accessibility features determined by DOTr.

The DOTr shall establish subsidy, loan, or tax-incentive mechanisms for small and medium PUV operators to facilitate compliance.

SEC. 5. Accessible Pick-up and Drop-off Points. – The DPWH, in coordination with LGUs, DOTr, and MMDA (for Metro Manila), shall identify, construct, and maintain accessible pick-up and drop-off points for persons with disabilities along major roads, highways, and transport terminals.

These areas shall include:

- a. Raised or curb-less platforms;
- b. Tactile paving;
- c. Proper lighting and signage;
- d. Sufficient ramp gradients;
- e. Space for docking PUVs equipped with lifts or ramps.

LGUs shall incorporate these provisions into local transport and infrastructure plans.

SEC. 6. Capacity-Building and Sensitivity Training. – All PUV drivers, conductors, dispatchers, and terminal personnel shall undergo mandatory disability sensitivity and accessibility operations training certified by NCDA and DOTr.

Training shall cover:

- a. Safe handling and assistance for passengers using mobility devices;
- b. Emergency protocols involving PWD passengers;
- c. Non-discriminatory conduct and service procedures.

SEC. 7. Monitoring, Inspection, and Compliance. – The DOTr, through LTFRB and in coordination with NCDA and LGUs, shall establish a regular inspection and compliance monitoring system that includes:

- a. Annual accessibility audits of PUVs and terminals;
- b. A public-facing compliance scorecard for operators;
- c. A grievance and response mechanism;
- d. Suspension of franchises for repeated non-compliance.

SEC. 8. Penalties. - Any PUV operator who fails to comply with the requirements of this Act shall be penalized as follows:

- a. First offense: Fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000) and mandatory corrective compliance within sixty (60) days;

- 1 b. Second offense: Fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000) and
2 suspension of franchise for up to thirty (30) days;
3 c. Subsequent offenses: Revocation of franchise.
4

5 Administrative fines shall be imposed by the LTFRB after due process. Collected
6 fines shall accrue to the Accessibility Compliance Fund under DOTr.
7

8 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The Secretary of the
9 Department of Transportation, in consultation with NCDA, DPWH, LTFRB, LGUs, in
10 coordination with PUV operators' groups, and disability rights organizations, shall
11 issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act.
13

14 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation
15 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of
16 Transportation under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, funding for
17 its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
18 Act.
19

20 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
22 remain in force and effect.
23

24 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
25 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
26 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
27

28 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
30

31 *Approved,*