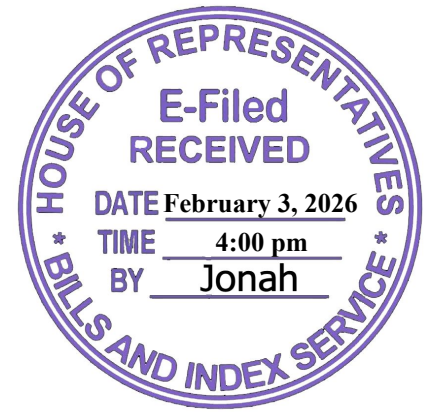


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Quezon City
4 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
5 *First Regular Session*

6 **HOUSE BILL NO. 7599**



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9
10 Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

11 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

12
13
14 The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "*public office is a public*
15 *trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the*
16 *people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency,*
17 *act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.*" (Section 1, Article XI).

18
19 Several times in the past, the proliferation of vehicles with protocol plates
20 has been identified with abusive behavior exhibited by individuals driving or
21 using these vehicles, whether high ranking government officials or persons
22 posing as such.

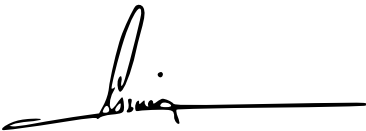
23
24 Moreover, it has become more and more difficult for motorists and the
25 public to identify the individuals concerned, as thousands of protocol plates are
26 issued to various government officials. For the House of Representatives alone,
27 there are close to 300 Congressmen, it is impossible for Traffic Enforcement
28 Agencies Nationwide to ascertain the true identity of the Number "8" Protocol
29 Plate user.

30
31 Furthermore, the continued issuance and use of Number "8" protocol
32 license plates can create opportunities for unscrupulous individuals to
33 improperly use, borrow, replicate, or falsely claim association with such plates
34 to evade traffic laws, intimidate motorists and traffic enforcers, and gain undue
35 advantage on public roads, thereby undermining public order, road safety, and
36 respect for the rule of law.

37
38 Public office is a public trust and no legitimate reason exists for the
39 above ranking government officials, particularly members of the House of
40 Representatives, to be accorded this privilege that has become prone to abuse
41 and misuse. As lawmakers, members of the House of Representatives should
42 set a good example by passing a law that will curtail a privilege presently
43 granted to them and that would put them on equal status with other vehicles on
44 the road.

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In view of the foregoing, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.



TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Quezon City

4
5 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
6 *First Regular Session*

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8 **HOUSE BILL NO. 7599**
9

10 Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**
11

12
13 **AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF THE NUMBER “8”**
14 **PROTOCOL LICENSE PLATES ON VEHICLES OF MEMBERS OF THE**
15 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
16

17 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
18 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
19

20 **SECTION 1. Policy.** - Members of the House of Representatives, just
21 like all other public officials have a sworn duty to serve the people and uphold
22 the law. They should not be entitled to any special privilege in the performance
23 of their duties.
24

25 **SEC. 2. Prohibition on issuance of protocol plates to members of**
26 **the House of Representatives.** -The issuance and use of the number "8"
27 protocol or courtesy license plates for vehicles of members of the House of
28 Representatives is hereby prohibited. All license plates bearing the number "8"
29 issued in the past are hereby cancelled, revoked and deemed withdrawn.
30

31 **SEC. 3. Desistance from Issuance.** - Upon the effectivity of this Act,
32 the Land Transportation Office shall forthwith desist from issuing the number
33 "8" protocol or courtesy license plates for the official use of the members of the
34 House of Representatives.
35

36 **SEC. 4. Penalties.** -
37

38 (a) Any person driving or using a vehicle bearing low-numbered or
39 protocol or courtesy license plates after the effectivity of this Act shall, upon
40 conviction, be fined the amount of Pesos: Twenty-Five Thousand (PhP
41 25,000.00) or imprisonment of one month and one day as minimum and six
42 months, as maximum; Provided that, if such person be a member of the House
43 of Representatives, such penalty shall be without prejudice to the right of the
44 House of Representatives to discipline such member under its own rules of
45 proceedings.
46

47 (b) Any official or employee of the Land Transportation Office and any
48 other person who shall issue or cause the issuance of low-numbered or protocol

1 or courtesy license plates to members of the House of Representatives shall
2 be subject to the same penalties provided in the preceding paragraph.
3

4 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** - All laws and executive orders, rules and
5 regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of
6 this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.
7

8 **SEC 6. Separability Clause** - In case any provision of this Act is
9 declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other remaining
10 provisions, which shall remain valid.
11

12 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its
13 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
14 Philippines.
15

16
17 *Approved,*
18
19