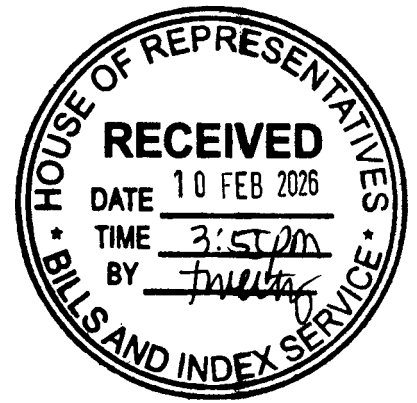


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7713**



Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive system of weighbridge operations as a road safety measure.

A safe and reliable road network is essential to national development, especially for strengthening the agricultural sector and ensuring the efficient movement of goods across the country. However, overloading remains one of the most serious threats to the country's roads and bridges. It is a major factor that accelerates road and bridge deteriorations, compromises structural integrity, increases public expenditures, and exposes motorists and pedestrians to significant safety hazards.

Republic Act No. 8794, as amended, also known as the "*Motor Vehicle User's Charge Law*", prescribes load limits for motor vehicles and imposes penalties for overloading. However, enforcement has remained weak due to the lack of permanent and adequately equipped weighbridge stations, limited deployment of portable weighing machines and outdated penalty structures. Recent incidents of bridge collapses and road failures attributed to overloading underscore the urgent necessity to strengthen anti-overloading regulations. Safeguarding public infrastructure requires a comprehensive and effective system for the prevention of overloading, reinforced by modern enforcement mechanisms and deterrent penalties.

This bill aims to fortify the country's anti-overloading policy by mandating the Department of Public Works and Highways to install weighbridge stations, deploy portable weighing devices, and adopt advanced monitoring technologies to ensure strict compliance with prescribed load limits. This proposed measure will ensure road safety and promote the integrity of public infrastructure, thereby safeguarding lives, preserving national assets, and promoting sustainable mobility.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jay V. Vergara".

JULIUS CESAR "JAY" V. VERGARA

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HOUSE BILL NO. **7713**

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AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF WEIGHBRIDGE
OPERATIONS AS A ROAD SAFETY MEASURE**

*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 "*Weighbridge
Operations Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the State to protect and
preserve public infrastructures, promote highway safety, and ensure the efficient
movement of goods and services. Toward this end, the State shall provide a
comprehensive system of weighbridge operations and overloading prevention
measures to deter the overloading of motor vehicles and safeguard the integrity of
roads and bridges.

SEC. 3. *Weighbridge Stations and Portable Weighing Machines.* - As an
integral component of the motor vehicle overloading prevention measures, the
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall establish, install, operate
and maintain weighbridge stations and deploy portable weighing machines at

1 strategic locations along national roads and critical approaches to bridges throughout
2 the country.

3 The DPWH shall, in coordination with the Department of Transportation
4 (DOTr), determine the locations based on traffic volume, road classification,
5 infrastructure vulnerability, and enforcement requirements.

6 **SEC. 4. *Weighbridge Standards.*** - The DPWH and DOTr shall establish
7 uniform standards governing the operation, calibration, safety protocols, and
8 maintenance of weighbridge equipment. They shall likewise procure, install, and
9 operate portable weighing systems and other advanced monitoring technologies to
10 enable real-time measurement and enforcement of motor vehicle weight limits.

11 **SEC. 5. *Operation and Maintenance.*** - The DPWH shall be responsible for the
12 operation and maintenance of weighbridge stations and portable weighing systems.
13 To ensure operational efficiency and maximum coverage, the DPWH may enter into
14 Public-Private Partnership arrangements with duly qualified private entities for the
15 management and operation of weighbridge stations. All such agreements must be
16 undertaken in accordance with applicable government procurement and auditing
17 laws, and must be subject to strict performance standards, transparency
18 requirements, and oversight mechanisms to safeguard abuse, corruption, or conflicts
19 of interest.

20 The Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall have primary responsibility for
21 enforcing laws and regulations on motor vehicle overloading. It shall likewise
22 undertake the assessment and collection of penalties for violations, ensure strict

1 compliance with prescribed load limits and the consistent application of sanctions to
2 safeguard public safety and protect national infrastructure.

3 SEC. 6. ***Mandatory Weighbridge Check.*** - All trucks, trailers, and other motor
4 vehicles operators with six (6) wheels or more shall undergo inspection at designated
5 weighbridge stations. Any act of bypassing, evading, or refusing weighbridge
6 inspection, including the tampering of load documents or the use of vehicle
7 modifications intended to conceal overloading constitutes a violation of this Act and
8 is subject to the penalties prescribed under Section 12 of this Act.

9 SEC. 7. ***Special Permit to Travel for Oversized or Inseparable Loads.*** -Driver
10 or operator of vehicle transporting inseparable equipment or special cargoes that
11 exceed the prescribed gross vehicle weight (GVW) limits shall secure a special permit
12 to travel from the DOTr prior to movement along roads and bridges where GVW
13 limits would otherwise be exceeded. The DOTr shall promulgate the necessary rules
14 and regulations prescribing the permitting procedures, equipment inspection
15 protocols, safety requirements, escort or convoy obligations, and route restrictions to
16 ensure the safe and orderly passage of such vehicles.

17 SEC. 8. ***Penalty.*** - Any driver or motor vehicle operator who bypasses,
18 evades, or refuses the mandatory weighbridge check required under Section 6 of this
19 Act, or who travels or passes roads and bridges exceeding GVW limits without the
20 permit required under Section 7 of this Act, shall be imposed a fine of One hundred
21 thousand pesos only (P100,000.00) in addition to the penalties imposed under
22 Republic No. 8794, as amended, entitled "*An Act Imposing A Motor Vehicle User's*

1 *Charge On Owners of All Types of Motor Vehicles and For Other Purposes,”* and other
2 existing laws.

3 SEC. 9. ***Continuous Operation of Weighbridge Stations.*** - All weighbridge
4 stations shall operate twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, including
5 weekends and holidays, to ensure uninterrupted enforcement of overload prevention
6 measures.

7 SEC. 10. ***Periodic Review of GVW Compliance Matrix.*** - The DPWH and DOTr
8 shall conduct a comprehensive review of the maximum allowable GVW matrix every
9 five (5) years, or earlier as may be warranted by changes in road conditions, industry
10 practices, or technological developments.

11 Any revised GVW matrix shall be formally published and widely disseminated
12 to all relevant government agencies, trucking companies, logistics operators, and
13 other stakeholders to ensure uniform compliance and effective enforcement.

14 SEC. 11. ***Enforcement and Apprehension of Violations.*** - The DOTr, through
15 the Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Philippine National
16 Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), shall conduct vehicle weight inspections,
17 verify compliance with prescribed load regulations, apprehend overloaded vehicles,
18 and impose the corresponding penalties.

19 These agencies shall jointly formulate and implement enforcement procedures,
20 including standardized documentation protocols, vehicle re-routing directives, and
21 guidelines for the safe handling, off-loading, or transfer of excess cargoes, to ensure
22 public safety, protect infrastructure, and uphold the integrity of this Act.

1 SEC. 12. *Liability of Truck Owners, Operators, and Consignees.* - Truck and
2 trailer owners, operators, consignees, shippers, and logistics providers shall ensure
3 compliance with weight regulations from the point of origin to the final destination
4 and shall be held solidarily liable in case of violation.

5 The absence of proper loading documentation, evasion of weighbridge
6 stations, or presentation of inconsistent manifests shall constitute *prima facie* evidence
7 of intentional overloading.

8 SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from
9 the effectivity of this Act, the DPWH shall, in coordination with the LTO, DOTr, DILG,
10 and other concerned agencies, promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
11 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

12 SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared
13 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
14 remain in force and effect.

15 SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
16 rules and regulations, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,