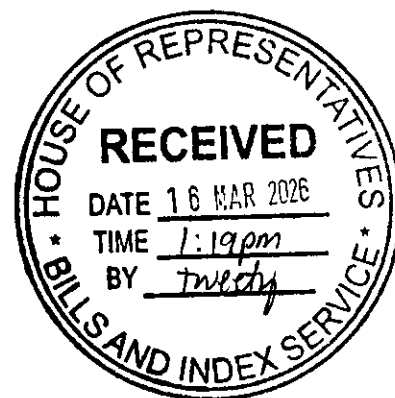


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8516



Introduced by Representative ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains highly vulnerable to global oil price shocks. Sustained and extraordinary increases in crude oil prices immediately translate into higher domestic fuel costs. These increases severely affect the rise of cost of moving goods and people across the country.

When fuel prices surge, public transport operators, delivery services, agricultural producers, and small businesses face higher operating costs, which are inevitably passed on to consumers through higher prices of food, basic commodities, and essential services. The result is accelerated inflation, weakened purchasing power, business contraction, and heightened economic insecurity for Filipino families.

Severe volatility in global oil markets, particularly during periods of geopolitical instability, creates conditions that threaten nationwide economic disruption. The rise of transport and logistics costs can destabilize supply chains, reduce consumer demand, and force micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to adjust and scale down operations or close entirely. The burden falls ultimately on workers, commuters, and low-income households.

Government cannot remain reactive in the face of recurring oil shocks. Presidential Decree No. 1112, or the Toll Operation Decree, grants the Toll Regulatory Board authority to regulate toll operations and amend or modify toll certificates when public interest so requires. Protecting the continuous and affordable movement of people and goods during periods of severe economic stress is a matter of public interest.

This measure provides for the automatic and temporary suspension of toll fees during periods of unusually high global oil prices. By lowering transport and logistics costs at critical times, it aims to ease inflation, support businesses, protect consumers, and help keep the economy stable without permanently affecting toll operations.

The State has the responsibility to act decisively when external shocks threaten the livelihoods of millions of Filipinos. This measure provides rules-based response to extraordinary oil price surges and ensures that relief is timely.

Immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

ROLANDO M. VALERIANO
Representative
Manila, 2nd District

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8516

Introduced by Representative ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
OF TOLL FEES DURING PERIODS OF HIGH GLOBAL OIL PRICES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “**Toll Relief Act.**”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. –It is the policy of the State to protect consumers, stabilize the prices of goods and services, and provide immediate relief to the public during periods of significant increases in global oil prices. The State recognizes that high fuel costs increase transport expenses, which in turn affect the prices of food, basic commodities, and other essential goods.

SECTION 3. Automatic Suspension of Toll Fees. –When the average monthly price of Dubai crude oil or other internationally recognized benchmark crude oil reaches or exceeds Eighty United States Dollars (US\$80) per barrel, as officially reported by the Department of Energy (DOE), the imposition and collection of toll fees on all toll expressways in the Philippines shall be automatically suspended.

The suspension shall take effect on the following day upon the DOE’s official confirmation that the threshold has been met.

SECTION 4. Duration of Suspension. –The suspension of toll fees shall remain in effect for as long as the average monthly crude oil price remains at or above US\$80 per barrel.

Once the average monthly price falls below US\$80 per barrel, toll collection shall automatically resume on the first day of the succeeding month.

SECTION 5. Coverage. –The suspension shall apply to all vehicles authorized to use toll expressways.

Congress may, upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), limit the suspension to public utility vehicles, delivery trucks carrying basic goods, and other priority sectors if fiscal conditions require.

SECTION 6. Compensation Mechanism. –To ensure continued maintenance and safe operation of toll facilities, the national government shall provide just compensation to affected toll operators during the period of suspension.

Funds for this purpose may be sourced from savings from the national budget; contingent funds for economic stabilization; or other sources as may be identified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. –Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOE, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Department of Finance (DOF) shall jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. –If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. –All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. –This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.