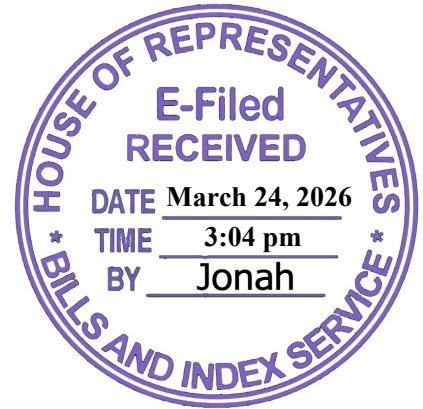


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8758**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

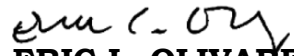
Rising global oil prices place a heavy burden on Filipino households by increasing transportation costs and driving up the prices of food and other basic commodities. As fuel costs rise, these are inevitably passed on to commuters and consumers, worsening inflationary pressures and reducing purchasing power.

Toll fees, while essential for infrastructure development, add to the cost of transport and logistics. During periods of high oil prices, their continued collection further compounds the financial strain on the public.

This bill seeks to provide immediate and automatic relief by suspending toll fees whenever global oil prices reach a specified threshold. By reducing transport costs, the measure aims to ease the burden on motorists, support public transport and delivery services, and help stabilize the prices of essential goods.

At the same time, the bill ensures that toll operators are fairly compensated, maintaining the safety and sustainability of tollway operations.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 8758

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“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 any 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 day immediately following 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.

Provided, That Congress may, upon recommendation of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), limit the suspension to public utility vehicles (PUVs), delivery trucks carrying basic goods, and other priority sectors, if fiscal conditions so require.

SECTION 6. Compensation Mechanism. To ensure the 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:

- (a) savings from the national budget;
- (b) contingent funds for economic stabilization; or
- (c) such 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 (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,