



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8774



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
PROHIBITING OPEN VEHICLE WINDOWS ON EXPRESSWAYS AND
SUPERHIGHWAYS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road safety goes beyond rules and regulations. It is a shared duty that shields lives, preserves health, and upholds the well-being of every Filipino. Our expressways and superhighways are the lifelines of our nation's movement and trade. These roads call for motorists to drive with utmost care. On such fast-moving roads, even a small mistake can quickly become a tragedy.

The proposed "Expressway Window Safety Act of 2026" aims to keep vehicles safer by banning open windows on expressways and superhighways. While statistics may not single out open windows as a cause, open windows increase risks by exposing vehicle interiors and occupants to sudden gusts of wind, flying debris, instability from disrupted airflow, and distraction hazards that can turn a routine drive into a preventable disaster.

Just as helmets protect motorcyclists and seatbelts protect passengers, closed windows are essential for riders. This small step makes a big difference. Helmets and seatbelts might seem bothersome, but they are proven lifesavers. Similarly, shutting windows on fast roads shields us from hidden dangers with devastating results. The brief comfort of an open window is not worth the risk. Skipping a helmet or seatbelt is never worth the gamble. Traffic accidents place a heavy load on emergency rooms and healthcare facilities, often diverting critical resources from patients with urgent needs. By decreasing hazards on expressways, the Act helps decongest hospital emergency services. Health workers can then concentrate on genuine emergencies, improving public health outcomes.

This legislation is resourceful and mindful of society's needs. The small investment in public awareness, signs, and enforcement is minor compared to the heavy price of road injuries. Medical bills, lost work, long recoveries, and heartbreak all come from lives lost needlessly.

With care for life, public health, and our shared duty, this bill is offered for your consideration. Passing it would move us closer to safer roads, united communities, and a culture that values prevention to protect lives.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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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 “**Expressway Window Safety Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the safety of all motorists and passengers on expressways and superhighways, promote preventive measures against road accidents, and reduce preventable injuries and fatalities, thereby contributing to public health and social welfare.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

“**Expressway or Superhighway**” refers to any limited-access, multi-lane arterial highway designed for uninterrupted, high-speed vehicular traffic.

“**Vehicle**” refers to any motorized conveyance, including automobiles, vans, trucks, and buses.

“**Open Window**” refers to any side, rear, or other window of a vehicle that is not fully closed to the vehicle’s frame.

SECTION 4. *Prohibition.* - It shall be unlawful for any driver or occupant of a vehicle to operate or travel in any part of a vehicle with open windows while traversing expressways and superhighways in the Philippines.

SECTION 5. *Exceptions.* - The prohibition under Section 4 shall **not apply**:

- a. When the vehicle is stationary at designated rest areas, toll plazas, or emergency stopping zones;
- b. During emergency operations where windows must be opened for safety or operational purposes;
- c. When specifically directed by law enforcement or authorized personnel for inspection.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* - The following penalties are hereby imposed:

a) Administrative Fines and Sanctions:

1. First offense – Fine of ₱5,000.00 and/or three (3) penalty points on the driver's license.
2. Second offense – Fine of ₱10,000.00, and/or five (5) penalty points, and/or driver's license suspension for 30 days.
3. Third and subsequent offenses – Fine of ₱20,000.00, and/or seven (7) penalty points, and/or driver's license suspension for 90 days.

b) Criminal Liability: If the violation results in serious physical injury or death, the offender shall, in addition to the penalties under this Act, be prosecuted under the Revised Penal Code (reckless imprudence resulting in physical injury or death) and other applicable laws.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - The Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Philippine National Police Highways Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), and expressway authorities, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its enactment. Such rules shall include enforcement procedures, guidelines for public information campaigns, and appropriate signage.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,