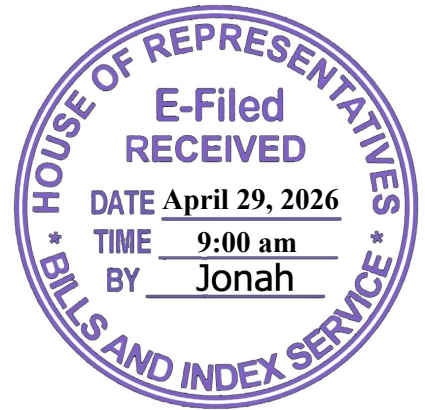




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 8996

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Railway systems are critical components of the country’s public transportation network, carrying hundreds of thousands and even millions of commuters daily. To illustrate, in year 2024 alone, the Metro Rail Transit-Line 3 (MRT-3) alone served 135,885,336 passengers which translates to an average of more than 372,000 passengers per day.¹ With this sheer passenger volume, ensuring the safety of railway operations and station environments has become an urgent public concern. Incidents involving accidental falls, unauthorized track access, crowd surges, and deliberate self-harm attempts at train platforms highlight persistent safety vulnerabilities in the absence of adequate physical barriers.^{2 3 4}

Platform safety barriers, including platform screen doors and safety rails, are considered effective measures in preventing accidents, injuries, and fatalities in railway stations. Such systems have been widely adopted in countries with dense urban rail networks, resulting in significant reductions in platform-related incidents while also improving crowd control, operational efficiency, and passenger confidence.

In the Philippines, however, the installation of platform safety barriers has been uneven, limited to select stations, or omitted altogether, often due to the absence of a clear statutory mandate. This fragmented approach places commuters at continued risk and results in inconsistent safety standards across railway systems.

This bill seeks to institutionalize railway platform safety by mandating the installation of platform safety barriers in all existing and future train stations nationwide.

¹ January 9, 2025. MRT-3 logs 135 million riders in 2024. Department of Transportation MRT-3. Available at <https://dotmrt3.gov.ph/news/mrt-3-logs-135-million-riders-in-2024>. (Accessed on January 30, 2026).

² December 27, 2025. Man apprehended after jumping onto MRT-3 rail tracks in Ortigas. ABS-CBN. Available at <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/nation/2025/12/27/man-apprehended-after-jumping-onto-mrt-3-rail-tracks-in-ortigas-2245>. (Accessed on January 30, 2026.)

³ April 13, 2023. DOTr to push for MRT-3 platform barriers after jumping incident. GMA News Online. Available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/motoring/866866/dotr-to-push-for-mrt-3-platform-barriers-after-jumping-incident/story/>. (Accessed on January 30, 2026.)

⁴ January 3, 2013. Suicide try disrupts MRT run. Inquirer. Available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/334419/suicide-try-disrupts-mrt-run>. (Accessed on January 30, 2026.)

It establishes a clear compliance timeline, ensures that no new station may operate without appropriate safety barriers, and provides a transparent and accountable framework for extensions only in cases of genuine structural or engineering constraints.

The measure directs the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in consultation and coordination with relevant stakeholders and agencies, to promulgate technical standards aligned with international best practices, while also taking into account accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities and the operational realities of different railway systems.

By explicitly disallowing budgetary delays or procurement inefficiencies as grounds for non-compliance, the bill affirms that commuter safety is a non-negotiable public obligation rather than a discretionary infrastructure upgrade.

The enactment of this measure is seen to significantly enhance passenger safety, reduce preventable accidents and fatalities, improve station management, and bring Philippine railway systems closer to internationally accepted safety standards.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8996

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF PLATFORM SAFETY BARRIERS IN ALL
URBAN COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Railway Platform*
2 *Safety Barrier Act.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 ensure the safety, security, and welfare of the commuting public by adopting
6 internationally recognized safety standards in railway operations. The State shall take
7 proactive measures to prevent accidents, injuries, and fatalities in train stations by
8 requiring physical safety barriers that regulate passenger access to railway tracks and
9 train entry points.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act:
12

- 13 a. *Platform Safety Barrier* refers to a fixed or automated physical barrier,
14 including but not limited to platform screen door or safety rail, installed along
15 train platform to prevent accidental or unauthorized access to railway tracks
16 and to control passenger flow during train boarding and alighting.
17
18 b. *Railway Operator* refers to a government-owned or controlled corporation,
19 private concessionaires, or any entity authorized to operate railway transport
20 systems.
21
22 c. *Railway Systems* refers to all commuter railways, including but not limited to
23 the Metro Rail Transit System, the Light Rail Transit System, and the
24 Philippine National Railways Metro Commuter Lines, whether currently
25 operational, partially operational, suspended, or to be made operational in the
26 future.
27

1 **SEC. 4. Mandatory Installation of Platform Safety Barriers.** – All railway
2 operators shall install platform safety barriers in all existing and future train stations,
3 specifically along areas where passengers wait for, board, and alight from trains.
4

5 No new train station shall commence operations without the installation of
6 platform safety barriers compliant with the standards prescribed under this Act.
7

8 **SEC. 5. Compliance Period.** – All railway operators shall achieve full
9 compliance with this Act within two (2) years from its effectivity.
10

11 The Department of Transportation (DOTr) may grant a one-time extension not
12 exceeding one (1) year for specific stations only upon a clear showing of structural,
13 engineering, or right-of-way constraints. Any extension granted shall be supported by
14 written justification and shall be made available to the public.
15

16 Budgetary delay or procurement inefficiencies shall not be considered valid
17 grounds for extension.
18

19 **SEC. 6. Standards and Technical Guidelines.** – The Department of
20 Transportation (DOTr), upon prior consultation and coordination with relevant
21 stakeholders and agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules, regulations, and the
22 technical standards for the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of platform
23 safety barriers.
24

25 Such standards shall take into consideration international best practices on
26 railway safety, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and operational efficiency.
27

28 **SEC. 7. Penalties and Sanctions.** – Any railway operator that fails to comply
29 with the provisions of this Act within the prescribed compliance period, without
30 justifiable cause as determined by the DOTr, shall be subject to administrative
31 sanctions, including fines and operational penalties, without prejudice to civil or
32 criminal liability under existing laws.
33

34 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from
35 the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, upon prior consultation and coordination with
36 relevant stakeholders and agencies, shall issue the implementing rules and
37 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.
38

39 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
40 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
41 remain in force and effect.
42

43 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
44 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
45 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

46 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
47 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
48

49 *Approved,*