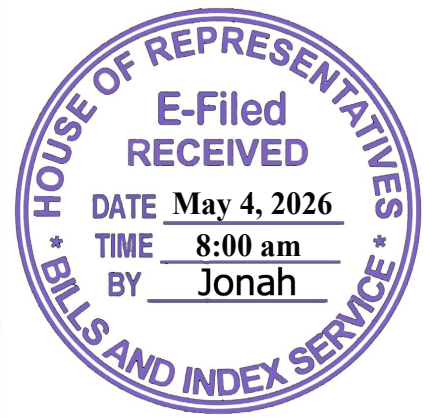


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL No. 9023

Introduced by REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A UNIFIED TRANSPORT REGISTRY SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC
TRANSPORT WORKERS AND OPERATORS, ENSURING INCLUSIVE
ELIGIBILITY, STREAMLINED VERIFICATION, AND REGULAR UPDATING OF
BENEFICIARY DATABASES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The public transport sector remains a critical pillar of the Philippine economy, ensuring mobility for millions of Filipinos daily. However, the effective delivery of government assistance to transport workers has long been hindered by fragmented, outdated, and difficult-to-access verification systems. These inefficiencies have resulted in delays, exclusion of legitimate beneficiaries, and administrative burdens that undermine the intent of social protection programs.

For instance, the Fuel Subsidy Program recently rolled out by the government targeted about 1.43 million beneficiaries from the transport sector. However, only about 201,000 or 14.1% of the public transport workers were able to receive the said government subsidy.¹

A significant portion of transport workers operate within the informal sector, often lacking complete or updated documentation required under traditional verification processes. As a result, many qualified drivers and operators are unable to access timely assistance, particularly during periods of crisis such as fuel price surges or national emergencies. At the same time, overly complex systems increase the risk of duplication, inaccurate records, and the inclusion of ineligible beneficiaries.

¹ Janer, R. A., & Janer, R. A. (2026, April 15). Gatchalian sa DOTr, LTFRB: Ayusin listahan ng PUV drivers para mapabilis ang ayuda. *Abante TNT - Tunay Na Tabloidista*. <https://tnt.abante.com.ph/2026/04/15/gatchalian-sa-dotr-ltfrb-ayusin-listahan-ng-puv-drivers-para-mapabilis-ang-ayuda/news/>

This measure seeks to address these longstanding challenges through the establishment of a Unified Transport Registry System (UTRS) anchored on a simplified, inclusive, and interoperable verification framework.

Central to this proposal is the adoption of streamlined verification mechanisms that allow for multiple, practical modes of validation. These include certifications from recognized transport groups or cooperatives, endorsements from local government units (LGUs), and cross-referencing with existing government databases such as those maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). By leveraging on-the-ground knowledge and existing institutional data, the system ensures both accessibility and reliability.

Ultimately, this reform will enable the government to respond more effectively to the needs of the transport sector, ensuring that assistance is targeted, timely, and equitable. It also enhances the State's capacity for evidence-based policymaking and crisis response by maintaining a reliable and dynamic database of transport workers nationwide.

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


REP. CLAUDINE DIANA BAUTISTA-LIM
DUMPER PTDA Party-List

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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 **Unified Transport Registry System Act**.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote equitable access to government assistance and social protection programs to marginalized sectors, particularly public transport workers. Toward this this, the government shall ensure the efficient, accurate, and inclusive identification of public transport workers and establish a reliable, interoperable, and transparent database for the transport sector to prevent duplication, exclusion, and delays in the delivery of government services.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) **Unified Transport Registry System (UTRS)** – a centralized and integrated digital database of all public transport workers and operators nationwide.
- (b) **Public Transport Workers** – include drivers, operators, conductors, dispatchers, and other personnel engaged in public land transportation services.
- (c) **Transport Groups or Cooperatives** – duly registered associations, corporations, or cooperatives of public transport workers and operators.
- (d) **Member Verification** – the process of confirming the identity and eligibility of individuals listed in the registry.

SEC. 4. Establishment of the Unified Transport Registry System. – There is hereby established a Unified Transport Registry System (UTRS), which shall serve as the primary and authoritative database of all public transport workers in the country.

The UTRS shall be the primary basis for:

1. Distribution of fuel subsidies, financial assistance, and other government support;
2. Policy planning and program implementation; and
3. Emergency response measures affecting the transport sector.

SEC. 5. Lead Implementing Agency. – The Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall establish and manage the UTRS, in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); and the local government units (LGUs).

SEC. 6. Integration of Existing Databases. – The UTRS shall integrate and harmonize data from:

1. The DSWD national household and beneficiary databases;
2. LTFRB records of franchise holders and drivers;
3. PSA database;
4. Databases of recognized transport groups and cooperatives; and
5. Registries maintained by LGUs.

All concerned agencies and entities shall ensure data sharing, subject to applicable data privacy laws.

SEC. 7. Inclusive Eligibility Criteria. – The UTRS shall adopt inclusive and flexible eligibility criteria, ensuring that both formal and informal transport workers are covered. Provided that, drivers and operators without complete documentation may be provisionally registered, subject to validation. Provided, further, that membership in transport groups or cooperatives shall be recognized as supporting proof of eligibility. Provided, finally, that no qualified beneficiary shall be excluded due to technical or documentary barriers.

SEC. 8. Simplified Verification of Membership. – For faster delivery of social assistance, the DOTr shall establish a simplified verification system by accepting the following as proof of membership and eligibility:

1. Certification by duly recognized transport groups or cooperatives;
2. Endorsement by LGUs; and/or
3. Cross-referencing with government databases.

The DOTr and LTFRB shall develop a standardized and digital verification system to minimize processing time and administrative burden.

SEC. 9. Registration and Updating. – Registration in the UTRS shall be continuous and accessible and shall be available through online platforms, LGU offices and authorized transport cooperatives and organizations.

The database shall be updated regularly and validated every two (2) years. The DOTr shall provide for mechanisms for real-time updating of status changes.

SEC. 10. Data Privacy and Protection. – All data collected and maintained under this Act shall be protected in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Appropriate safeguards shall be implemented to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and proper use of personal information.

SEC. 11. Funding. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against appropriations under the General Appropriations Act, and such other sources as may be identified by the government.

SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,