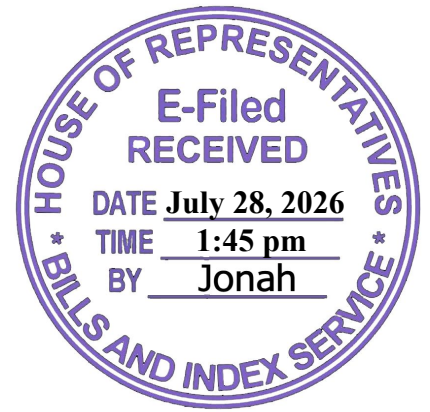


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
20TH Congress
House of Representatives
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10279

Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL
2nd District of Surigao del Sur

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FUEL SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC
UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVERS AND OPERATORS DURING PERIODS OF
SUSTAINED HIGH FUEL PRICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public utility jeepney, tricycle, and bus drivers absorb the full shock of global oil price increases, often being forced to choose between raising fares — which burdens commuters — or absorbing losses that push them deeper into debt. This bill institutionalizes a fuel subsidy program that activates automatically once pump prices breach a defined threshold, rather than depending on ad hoc, one-time cash aid announced after public protests.

It builds on the experience of prior fuel subsidy programs by making the trigger, amount, and distribution mechanism permanent and predictable.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Public Transport Fuel Relief Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State recognizes the vital role of public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators in national transportation and shall protect them from the volatility of global fuel prices.

SECTION 3. Automatic Fuel Subsidy. — Whenever the prevailing pump price of diesel or gasoline increases by fifteen percent (15%) or more within a ninety (90)-day period, as monitored by the Department of Energy, a fuel subsidy shall automatically be released to registered PUV drivers and operators through the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) registry.

SECTION 4. Coverage. — The subsidy shall cover operators and drivers of jeepneys, UV Express units, buses, taxis, and tricycles duly registered with the LTFRB or the concerned local government unit.

SECTION 5. Fuel Subsidy Fund. — There is hereby created a standing Fuel Subsidy Fund under the Department of Energy, to be replenished annually through the General Appropriations Act and augmented by a portion of excise tax collections on petroleum products during periods of sustained high prices.

SECTION 6. Distribution Mechanism. — Subsidies shall be distributed through fuel discount cards, direct fuel vouchers, or electronic cash transfer, at the option of the driver or operator, to minimize leakage and delay.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Energy, and thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Energy shall issue implementing rules within sixty (60) days from effectivity.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.