

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 758

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Introduced by DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To say that the traffic throughout the nation has gone from bad to worse is definitely an understatement. It takes time away from our families and causes not only a multitude of personal inconveniences but also losses in our country's economy by way of lost investments and potential income. A number of solutions have been tried out by the government but it seems that the problem is just too overwhelming now to overcome.

There is one solution though that most people are in common agreement – that is, to discourage private car ownership and use by elevating the level of our public transportation system to world class level. One of the means by which most people use as their means of transportation is our taxi system. Unfortunately, it has gained notoriety in the eyes of the riding public because almost everyday in the news, we hear various incidents of passengers complaining about abusive and discourteous taxi drivers who either pick their passengers based on their personal convenience, or charge excessive fares without using their taximeters. Worse, there are even some passengers who have been held up or mugged by their own drivers. Such incidents have even led to the emergence of "alternative taxi" systems such as Uber and Grab, which according to most passengers, provide better services compared to the traditional taxis. However, such services will not be able to supply the rising need of the riding public to an efficient, safe and accessible public transportation system. That is why this bill, a consolidation of House Bills 797 (Rep. Harlin Cast. Abayon), 2346 (Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez), 2669 (Rep. Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo and Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo), 3371, 3503 (Rep. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.), 3543 (Rep. Eric L. Olivarez), 3681 (Rep. Sherwin T. Gatchalian) and 4016 (Rep. Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing) filed in the 16th Congress, seeks to overhaul and finally cure our infamous taxi system.

Not only will this bill ease the traffic by discouraging private car ownership and use, it will also serve the benefit of the riding public, as well as generate more revenue for our taxi drivers and taxi operators in the long run. For these reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Emmeline Y. Villar

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES OF TAXI
DRIVERS AND OPERATORS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Taxi Transport Practices Regulation Act of 2016".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. To this end, it shall be the policy of the State to establish a world class public transportation system by providing passenger safety to the general public. To this end, the State shall establish transportation service standards that shall address the basic rights of the passengers as may be provided by law. Particularly, the State shall afford the public their established passenger rights and the principles that will outline their expectations on their commute to ensure their safety, and improve taxi service in the country.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Taxi" shall include any motor vehicle-for-hire held out for public transport, usually a car installed with a taximeter, which transports a passenger or passengers, with no fixed route within a specified area.

(b) "Taxi operators and companies" shall refer to any individual, partnership, cooperative and corporate entities engaged in the business of operating and maintaining taxi units.

(c) "Taximeter" shall be understood as a device or instrument found inside a taxi unit that shows the fare due.

(d) "Global Positioning System (GPS)" – a space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information in all weather conditions, anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites.

SECTION 4. Rights of Taxi Passengers. – Every Taxi Passenger shall have the right to:

- (a) A licensed driver who is properly dressed, as provided in Section 7 of this Act, as well as one who is courteous and is not under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- (b) A clean and safe taxi;
- (c) Be picked up and transported to the passenger's stated destination subject to applicable traffic regulations;
- (d) A fare meter conspicuously displayed in front of the taxi which is duly calibrated and sealed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB);
- (e) Travel with an assistance dog or portable mobility aid;
- (f) Direct the route, or expect the most economical route;
- (g) View the metered fare and to receive a receipt;
- (h) Refuse multiple hiring; *
- (i) Have the air conditioning on or off;
- (j) Have the lighting equipment on or off;
- (k) See the driver's identification card, which shall state clearly the driver's name and the taxi operator's name, place of business, and contract numbers, and shall contain a picture of the driver.
- (l) See the plate number of the taxi and emergency numbers for assistance by the Philippine National Police prominently displayed on the side doors and other conspicuous places within the taxi;
- (m) A quiet atmosphere, upon request;
- (n) Pay the rate exactly as posted in the meter, subject to other government sanctioned fees;
- (o) Receive an exact change;
- (p) Embark and disembark at any point, subject to existing traffic rules and regulations; and
- (q) A substitute taxi, or an assistance to procure one, in case of mechanical or engine trouble that hinders the continuation of carriage, together with the waiver of the payment of the running metered fare.

SECTION 5. Taxi Passengers' Rights Notification. - The taxi passengers' rights as enumerated in Section 4 of this Act shall be prominently displayed inside the taxi cab. Such notification shall also contain a brief description of the procedure on how to file a complaint

for violation of any of the rights enumerated, as well as, the necessary contact information provided by the LTFRB to handle such complaints.

SECTION 6. Issuance of Receipts. - All taxi drivers are required to furnish their passengers, upon arrival at their destination with a receipt detailing the following information: name, address and telephone number of the taxi company and/or operator of the vehicle, the name of the driver, the distance traveled and the corresponding fare. The driver is mandated to keep a copy of every issued receipt and should submit these at the end of his shift to the company for record-keeping purposes.

SECTION 7. Uniform for Taxi Drivers. -All taxi operators shall require their drivers to wear a company-prescribed uniform while driving, and with readable name plates on right breast sides, and long pants. All drivers are likewise required to wear closed shoes while driving.

SECTION 8. Taxi Equipped with a liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fuel System. - A taxi equipped with a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel system must display a current Alternative Fuel Inspection Certificate to be issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), and the fuel system must be maintained in a safe condition. An identification label must be fitted to the vehicle that is equipped with an LPG or CNG fuel system, positioned in a clearly visible location as close as practicable to the front and rear registration plates.

SECTION 9. Automatic Door Locks. - A door in a taxi must not lock automatically when it is closed. Automatically operating central locking devices and speed-sensitive door locks must be permanently deactivated or removed.

SECTION 10. Mandatory Installation of GPS - All taxi owners/operators, whether under an existing franchise or upon application of a new one, are hereby required to install a GPS device in every taxi unit he/she presently owns/operates or will own/operate in the future. Owners/ Operators of taxi cabs under an existing franchise are given two (2) months from promulgation of this Act to comply with the requirement of installing GPS device in their taxi cabs. The LTFRB shall conduct regular ocular inspections after the lapse of two (2) months from the promulgation of this Act to ensure that all licensed taxi owners/operators have complied with the requirements of this Act. Application for a franchise to operate a taxi business by a person or persons who wish to own/operate taxi cabs as public utility vehicles, shall not be granted until and unless the owner or operator, upon the inspection and assessment of the LTO, is ready and/or equipped to install a GPS device for every taxi cab it owns/ will operate. Applicants of a new franchise shall obtain a certification from LTFRB stating that it is equipped with a GPS Device, and the said certification shall be attached or incorporated to the other pertinent documents necessary for the application process of a franchise to operate a taxi business. Applications for franchise already filed before the LTFRB but pending approval thereof upon the promulgation of this Act shall be deferred until and unless applicants comply with the additional requirement as provided under this Act and thereby acquire and/or equip their business with necessary GPS device. An additional requirement of obtaining Certification from the LTFRB as in this Section shall be submitted by the applicants whose franchise applications are pending. Only upon the attainment and submission of the said certification,

