

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 72

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The granting of student fare discounts in the recent times are authorized only through a circular issued by the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

In this measure, this representation seeks to institutionalize the grant of a fixed fare discount to qualified students on land, water and air transportation utilities throughout the year, except during transitional period, i.e. summer vacation.

This bill seeks to address economic concerns and the alarming rate of school drop-outs. This will alleviate the burden of the parents and guardians in the financial support given to the students with due consideration to its continued rise in the cost of education in the country, including their incidental expenses, e.g. transportation costs.

Said fare discount privilege will be made available to qualified students even during Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas vacation and other holidays to inspire our students to engage in academic, extra-curricular and civic activities during these days. In this scenario, we can expect holistic growth of our students, our hope for the future. Due consideration is also given to those students undergoing internships, trainings and other activities covered by their curricula.

Approval therefore is highly recommended.


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

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HOUSE BILL NO. 72

Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – Section 1, Article XIV, of the Constitution states: “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.” In addition, Paragraph 3, Section 2 of the same Article directs the State to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives, which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

Consistent with these Constitutional mandates, the State shall:

- a. establish a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of a student fare discount privilege;
- b. enlist the cooperation and support of public transportation utilities in extending assistance to students as a social responsibility through the observance of this privilege; and
- c. encourage students, particularly the poor and underprivileged, to pursue quality education to secure their future and make them responsible citizens.

SEC. 2. Definitions. – As used in this Act:

- a. Schooldays refer to the entire duration of the school year during which the student is enrolled, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, but excluding the semestral and summer breaks;
- b. Student refers to any Filipino citizen, not more than thirty (30) years old and enrolled in any elementary, secondary, technical and vocational, or higher education institution, including those enrolled in postgraduate degree courses; and

- c. **Public Transportation Utilities** refer to natural or juridical persons engaged in the business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods, by land, water, or air, for compensation, offering their services to the public.

SEC. 3. *Student Fare Discount Privilege.* – A student shall be entitled to a twenty percent (20%) discount on the regular domestic fares of all kinds of public transportation utilities upon the presentation of a duly issued and validated school identification card or current and validated enrolment form, supported by any document to properly establish identity: *Provided,* That this privilege may be availed of only during schooldays, based on the actual date of travel.

SEC. 4. *Filing of Complaints.* – A student who is refused the fare discount privilege under this Act may file a complaint with:

- a. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for land public transportation utilities, except tricycles;
- b. The Maritime Industry Authority for sea/water public transportation utilities;
- c. The Civil Aeronautics Board for air public transportation utilities;
- d. The Legal Service of the Department of Transportation and Communications for rail public transportation facilities, including the Manila Light Rail Transit System and the Manila Metro Rail Transit System; and
- e. The Office of the Local Chief Executive of the local government unit concerned for tricycles.

These agencies and offices are hereby authorized to impose the penalties provided for in Section 5 of this Act on public transportation utilities that refuse or fail to grant the student fare discount privilege.

Sec. 5. *Penalties.* – The following penalties shall be imposed for refusal or failure to grant the student fare discount privilege provided under this Act:

- a. For Land Public Transportation Utilities, including tricycles:

The driver shall suffer the penalty of suspension of driver's license for:

- 1) one (1) month for the first offense;
- 2) two (2) months for the second offense;
- 3) three (3) months for the third offense; and
- 4) three (3) months plus a fine of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for each subsequent offense.

The owner or operator of the land transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with the conductor for a fine of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for every offense or violation.

- b. For Sea/Water and Air Public Transportation Utilities:

The owner or operator of the sea/water or air public transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with its employee or agent responsible for the refusal or failure for a fine of:

- 1) five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2) ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) for the third offense; and
- 4) Additional increments of ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) on top of the fine for the third offense for each subsequent offense.

c. For Rail Public Transportation Utilities:

The operator of the rail public transportation utility shall be solidarily liable with its employee responsible for the refusal or failure for a fine of:

- 1) one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for the first offense;
- 2) five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for the third offense; and
- 4) Additional increments of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) on top of the penalty for the third offense for each subsequent offense.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act by the President or from the date it lapses into law, the Secretary of Transportation and Communications shall, after consultation with the concerned government agencies, promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the [remainder of this Act or any] provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and in effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,