

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5495



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**INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The State has the responsibility to make public transportation facilities and utilities accessible to everyone, especially to the vulnerable sectors like persons with disabilities and senior citizens. Under Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or the Accessibility Law, public transport providers are required to designate seats for persons with disabilities and conspicuously display posters and stickers to generate awareness. However, the amended Expanded Senior Citizens Act does not contain a similar provision; the Republic Act No. 9995 only directs the Department of Transportation "to develop a program to assist senior citizens to fully gain access to public transport facilities."

The provision of reserved seating for persons with disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens, and pregnant women is also instructed by the Department of Transportation, formerly known as the Department of Transportation and Communications or DOTC, through its Department Order No. 2014-013. But our *lolos* and *lolas* continue to lament the lenient implementation of these laws and executive orders as they find themselves standing on a cramped and moving vehicle while non-eligible passengers occupy the seats designated to them.

This bill seeks to further strengthen the Expanded Senior Citizens Act and provide priority seating for the elderly on land, water, and air transport utilities. It also provides penalties for public transports operators who will violate this.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is sought.

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**

**REQUIRING LAND, AIR, AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE PRIORITY SEATING FOR THE ELDERLY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257 AND 994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZEN'S ACT OF 2010"**

*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 "*Priority Seating for the Elderly Act.*"

**SEC. 2. Amendatory Provision.** - For the purposes of this Act, the following provisions of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and 994, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*" is hereby further amended to read as follows:

- a) Section 5, Paragraph (f) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

**"SEC. 5. Government Assistance.** - x x x

**"(a) Employment**

x x x

**"(f) PRIORITY SEATING FOR THE ELDERLY**

**ALL PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES (PUV), PUBLIC UTILITY BUSES (PUB), RAIL TRANSPORT PROVIDERS, AND AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS, SHALL RESERVE AND DESIGNATE THE BEST POSSIBLE SEATS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB), THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR), THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA), THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA), THE CIVIL**

AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (CAAP), AND THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES FROM REPUTABLE AND CONCERNED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AS DETERMINED BY THE DOTR.

THE PRIORITY SEATS SHALL BE CLEARLY LABELLED TO INDICATE THAT PASSENGERS MAY USE THEM BUT MUST VACATE THEM IF THEY ARE NEEDED BY AN ELDERLY PASSENGER: *PROVIDED*, THAT PASSENGERS WHO ARE PREGNANT OR DISABLED SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS PROVISION.

COMMERCIAL AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS SHALL ENSURE THAT PRIORITY SEATS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ELDERLY PASSENGERS DURING THE RESERVATION OF SEATS. ELDERLY PASSENGERS MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SEATS OR BUMPED OFF WITH AT LEAST ONE (1) WEEK OF PRIOR NOTICE AND WITHOUT REASON.

[The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall develop a program to assist senior citizens to fully gain access to public transport facilities.]

“(g) Incentive for Foster Care

x x x”

- b) Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

“SEC. 10. *Penalties.* - x x x

“(a) x x x

“(b) x x x

“(c) x x x

ANY PUV OR PUB OPERATOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(F) OF THIS ACT SHALL, UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR TWO (2) MONTHS TO ONE (1) YEAR OR PAY A FINE OF ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) TO FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 5,000.00), WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS SUCH AS SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THEIR FRANCHISE;

ANY RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(F) OF THIS ACT SHALL, UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR FIVE (5) MONTHS TO TWO (2) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF THIRTY

THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 30,000.00) TO FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 50,000.00)

ANY COMMERCIAL AIR OR SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(F) OF THIS ACT SHALL, UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 100,000.00) TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 500,000.00).

X X X

**SEC. 3. Appropriations.** – Such funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOTR, in coordination with the LTFRB, PNR, LRTA, MARINA, CAAP, and three (3) representatives from reputable and concerned civil society organizations, as determined by the DOTR, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within fifteen (15) days from its effectivity.

**SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**