

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1606



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure aims to formulate a more rational framework in going about license plate replacement. In effect, it proposes a schedule of twelve (12) years in which case, no license plate replacement may be launched at a nation-wide scale which violates the provision of this new proposal.

This shall break the pattern wherein new license plates are implemented every change of administration indicatively out of mere caprice, whim or for any political or economic reason. More importantly, this shall relieve the public of the burden of having to shell out hard-earned money to an unnecessary expenditure otherwise not subsidized by the government.

In fact, 12 years are quick to pass and will not even alter nor render the integrity of the materials or features in license plates questionable even beyond that period unless new developments (i.e. illegally-replicated plates, security concerns) warrant. Thus, this 12-year replacement schedule may also be the same as the renewal date for license plates or after which, the same are deemed as 'dead'.

In other words, the bill looks at 12 years as the standard life span of a valid license plate of motor vehicles of all types in the country subject to extension as may be issued by appropriate agency of government.

Meantime, the Land Transportation Office may do well to perform its mandate by insuring a reliable database as well as inventory of all license plates so far issued to some 5,530,052 registered vehicles (i.e. 2007 data from LTO) consisting of 751,092 cars or 14.09%, 1,602,619 or 30.06% UV, 192,991 or 3.62% SUV, 281,261 or 5.28% trucks, 30,159 or 0.57% buses, 2,647,574 or 49.66 MC/TC24,356 or 0.46% Trailer.

Seriously, license plate replacement should only be effected if there are sufficient grounds for doing so. For instance, if the license plate does not in any way interfere with vehicle identification, then it should remain in use and valid unless otherwise the same already far exceeded its intended life span, severely deteriorated, and were very hard to read. Other grounds relating to unregistered vehicles and fraud, and updating our state image may well be taken into account.

The passage of this urgent measure is most earnestly sought.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE TO RENEW OR REPLACE LICENSE PLATES OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER ITS JURISDICTION ONLY AFTER EVERY TWELVE (12) YEARS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "License Plate Renewal/Replacement Act."

SEC. 2. The Land Transportation Office shall hereby be mandated to renew or replace license plates of motor vehicles under its jurisdiction only after every twelve (12) years and/or an extended period of time as it may deem appropriate.

SEC. 3. To effectively implement this Act, the Land Transportation Office shall issue appropriate rules, regulations, standards, and guidelines that shall justify the renewal/replacement of license plates of motor vehicles and/or extension of the use and validity thereof.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval, publication in the Official Gazette, and in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,