

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 413

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "[p]ublic office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives." (Section 1, Article XI).

Several times in the past, the proliferation of vehicles with protocol plates has been identified with abusive behavior exhibited by individuals driving or using these vehicles, whether high ranking government officials or persons posing as such.

Moreover, it has become more and more difficult for motorists and the public to identify the individuals concerned, as thousands of protocol plates are issued to various government officials. For the House of Representatives alone, there are close to 300 Congressmen, it is impossible for Traffic Enforcement Agencies Nationwide to ascertain the true identity of the Number "8" Protocol Plate user.

Public office is a public trust and no legitimate reason exists for the above ranking government officials, particularly members of the House of Representatives, to be accorded this privilege that has become prone to abuse and misuse. As lawmakers, members of the House of Representatives should set a good example by passing a law that will curtail a privilege presently granted to them and that would put them on equal status with other vehicles on the road.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.


TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE AND USE
THE NUMBER "8" PROTOCOL LICENSE PLATES ON
VEHICLES OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Policy. – Members of the House of Representatives, just like all other public officials have a sworn duty to serve the people and uphold the law. They should not be entitled to any special privilege in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 2. Prohibition on issuance of protocol plates to members of the House of Representatives. – The issuance and use of the number "8" protocol or courtesy license plates for vehicles of members of the House of Representatives is hereby prohibited. All license plates bearing the number "8" issued in the past are hereby cancelled, revoked and deemed withdrawn.

SECTION 3. Desistance from Issuance. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Land Transportation Office shall forthwith desist from issuing the number "8" protocol or courtesy license plates for the official use of the members of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. Penalties. –

- (a) Any person driving or using a vehicle bearing low-numbered or protocol or courtesy license plates after the effectivity of this Act shall, upon conviction, be fined the amount of Pesos: Twenty-Five Thousand (PhP 25,000.00) or imprisonment of one month and one day as minimum and six months, as maximum; Provided that, if such person be a member of the House of Representatives, such penalty shall be without prejudice to the right of the House of

Representatives to discipline such member under its own rules of proceedings.

- (b) Any official or employee of the Land Transportation Office and any other person who shall issue or cause the issuance of low-numbered or protocol or courtesy license plates to members of the House of Representatives shall be subject to the same penalties provided in the preceding paragraph.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws and executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause – In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other remaining provisions, which shall remain valid.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,