

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE BILL NO. 725

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Introduced by: HON. MAXIMO B. DALOG

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to stop the collection of fees from passengers for the use of the comfort rooms and service facilities in bus terminals/bus stations, bus stops and rest areas.

Article 1755 of the New Civil Code of the Philippines states that a common carrier is bound to carry the passengers safely as far as human care and foresight can provide, using the utmost diligence of very cautious persons, with a due regard for all the circumstances.

In addition, Presidential Decree No. 856 otherwise known as the "Code on Sanitation," states as one of its basis, the need of providing for an adequate number of rest areas for passengers of public and private conveyances plying the highways to cater to the comfort and personal convenience and needs of travellers.

The maintenance of these comfort rooms and service facilities is part of the services for human care of common carriers. Thus, additional payment for maintenance of these facilities should not be imposed on the riding public. In addition, the collection of fees for the use of comfort rooms and service facilities is an added burden to riding public; hence, making travel within the country more expensive.

For the benefit of the riding public who patronize these common carriers, the collection of fees from the passengers using the comfort rooms and service facilities in the bus terminals/bus stations, bus stops and rest areas should be stopped immediately.

Considering the beneficial effects to the riding public, approval of the Bill is immediately sought.

  
MAXIMO B. DALOG

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HOUSE BILL NO. 725

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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE COLLECTION OF FEES FROM PASSENGERS FOR THE USE OF SANITARY FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE LAND TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS, STOPS AND REST AREAS**

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

**Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy.**- Section 15, Article II of the Philippine Constitution declares: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." The right of every establishment to a fair return of investment carries with it a corresponding social responsibility to provide adequate facilities for the comfort of its clientele. Towards this end, the State shall require the owners, operators and administrators of land transport terminals, stations, stops and rest areas to provide and maintain suitable and clean sanitary facilities, free of charge to passengers and travelers.

**Sec. 2. Definition of Terms.**- As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Land transport terminal/station* refers to a passenger station and a place for the final stopover or a permanent station, office and yard of public utility vehicles, which may also serve as loading and unloading area for passengers;
- b. *Land transport stop* refers to a common place for the stopover of public utility vehicles located along the highways or regular route for transport in long distance travel;
- c. *Rest area* refers to a facility located at a strategic point along the national highway or route of the traveling public which is provided with

parking space, restaurants or snack bars, other business shops, recreational facilities, service stations, public restroom facilities or waiting sheds for travelers or commuters; and

- d. *Sanitary facilities* refer to a set of facilities that include at least a combination of comfort room, hand-washing and drinking facilities.

**Sec. 3. Prohibition Against Imposing and Collecting Fees** .- It shall be unlawful for the owner, operator or administrator of land transport terminals, stations, stops and rest areas to collect fees from passengers for the use of regular sanitary facilities therein. For the purpose of this Act, the concerned passenger must show the paid bus ticket for the day in order to avail of the free use of the sanitary facility: *Provided, however,* That the provisions of this Act shall not apply to separate, well-appointed or deluxe sanitary facilities that are operated solely for commercial purposes and for the convenience of passengers who require and prefer such facilities within land transport terminals, stations, stops or rest areas.

**Sec. 4. Penalty; Review of Penalty**.- Any owner, operator or administrator of land transport terminals, stations, stops and rest areas who violates the prohibition under Section 3 of this Act shall be liable for a fine in the amount of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00).

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall, after five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act and once every five (5) years thereafter, review the applicability and enforcement of the fine prescribed in the preceding paragraph and the necessary adjustments on the amount of the fine imposed subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

**Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations**.- The DOTC and the LTFRB shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, jointly promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**Sec. 6. Repealing Clause**.- All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 7. Effectivity**. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,