

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 755

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As public service providers, it is only just and fair to assure your patrons and customers the best possible security provisions. The protection of commuters in public transportation, particularly in buses, should, therefore, be of utmost importance because it is the right of every citizen to receive competitive and respectable services without having any fear or threat of being harmed. Considering that commuters make up 80% of the daytime population based on the data of the Department of Communication and Transportation, I believe that the State has an obligation to give proper attention to legislations that better ensure the safety and welfare of our commuters. This, I believe, could be attained by providing a closed-circuit television unit (CCTV) at every public bus in the country.

One of the major tactics that criminals use to steal from commuters at public utility vehicles is called "Laglag Barya," wherein a group of pick-pockets would "accidentally" drop coins in buses in the attempt of stealing from passengers while they are distracted from helping in picking up the coins. Likewise, a "Ketchup Gang" uses a similar strategy by secretly putting ketchup on passengers in the attempt that they will open their bags to wipe it off, giving the pick-pockets an opportunity. Such illegal activities could have been deterred if only proper security measures were installed and utilized in buses.

The use of high-definition CCTVs in public places has been proven to be efficient, and installing them in public transportation will definitely help ease the commuting population's fear amidst this growing number of commuter-related illegal activities. I believe that CCTVs will be of great help for identifying and catching offenders and preventing crimes in public transportation. Furthermore, CCTVs have been found to be an effective deterrent of criminal activities. This bill, based on House Bill No. 3704 filed by Rep. Eric L. Olivarez last 16th Congress, with some changes on the imposable fines, seeks to elevate the safety and security standards in public transportation system, while particularly focusing on public buses.

Emmeline Y. Villar

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF
CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION OR SURVEILLANCE (SECURITY)
CAMERA IN EVERY BUS BEING OPERATED FOR PUBLIC UTILITY IN
THE
COUNTRY.**

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

SECTION 1. Name. - This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Bus Surveillance Act".

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. -

Security Camera; Surveillance Camera Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) - the use of video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a limited set of monitors. A security camera as contemplated or used in this Act, is understood as a video camera that records the activities happening inside a bus in order to detect and prevent crime and other related situations. The terms shall be used interchangeably in this Act.

Bus - a large motor vehicle carrying passengers by road, especially one serving the public on a fixed route and for a fare. For purposes of this act, the term 'bus' shall pertain only to public utility buses.

Public Utility Owners/ Operators - for purposes of this Act, it shall mean owners or operators of at least one bus offering transportation services to the public at large.

SECTION 3. Mandatory Installation of CCTV or Surveillance Camera. - All bus owners or operators, whether under an existing franchise or upon application of a new one, are hereby required to install a CCTV or surveillance camera in every bus unit he or she presently owns or operates, or will own or operate in the future.

SECTION 4. - Allowance of Time for Owners/ Operators with Subsisting Franchise. - Owners or operators of public utility buses under an existing franchise are given three (3) months from the promulgation of this Act to comply with the requirement of

installing CCTV or security cameras in the bus/es that they operate.

SECTION 5. Monitoring. - The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall conduct regular ocular inspections after the lapse of three (3) months from the promulgation of this Act to ensure that all licensed bus owners or operators have complied with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 6. Requirement for Application of a New Franchise. - Application for a franchise to operate a bus line or business by a person or persons who wish to own or operate buses as public utility vehicles, shall not be granted until and unless the owner or operator, upon the inspection and assessment of the LTFRB is ready and/or equipped to install a CCTV or security camera devise for every bus it owns or will operate.

SECTION 7. Applicants to Obtain Certification from LTFRB. - Applicants of a new franchise shall obtain a certification from LTFRB stating that each of its buses is equipped with a surveillance camera, and the said certification shall be attached or incorporated to the other pertinent documents necessary for the application process of a franchise to operate a bus line or business.

SECTION 8. Pending Applications for Franchise. - Applications for franchise already filed before the LTFRB but pending approval thereof upon the promulgation of this Act shall be deferred until and unless applicants comply with the additional requirement as provided under this Act and thereby acquire and or equip their business with necessary security cameras. An additional requirement of obtaining Certification from the LTFRB as stated in Section 7 hereof shall be submitted by the applicants whose franchise applications are pending. Only upon the attainment and submission of the said certification, along with compliance with other requirements as required by existing laws, shall the application be finally granted or approved.

SECTION 9. Twenty Four Hour Surveillance by the Bus Operator. - It shall be the duty of every bus company or operator to assign or delegate personnel that will monitor the video feeds of the CCTV or security cameras of its buses real-time, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, This is to ensure that the bus company can timely alert authorities of an on-going crime so that the latter can act immediately and prevent the furtherance of the said crime.

SECTION 10. Unannounced Inspections. - Authorized personnel of the LTFRB shall conduct unannounced or surprised inspections of any public utility bus whether in transit or parked in the terminal to ensure compliance with this Act.

SECTION 11. Violation of this Act. - Violation of any of the provisions of this Act shall be meted with a revocation of license/franchise to operate a bus line or business and fines in the amount of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to be imposed by the LTFRB and/or imprisonment for not less than 30 days but not more than one year to be imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction against the operator or proprietor of the business, or against the members of the Board of Directors if the operator of the bus company is a corporation.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Transportation and Communication in coordination with the LTFRB shall promulgate the

Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 14. Separability Clause. - In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 15. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,