EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. B. No. 3446

Introduced by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto
6th District of Batangas

AN ACT
ALLOWING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES AS PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

Republic Act (R.A.) No. 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code mandates
that motorcycles can only be registered as private vehicles or as government vehicles, but not
vehicles for hire. Under the law, motorcycles cannot be used as public utility vehicles, thus
making the operations of motorcycles-for-hire and motorcycle ride-hailing apps like Angkas
illegal.¹

Motorcycles, however, are a common mode of transportation in the Philippines. In
2018, Angkas had over 20,000 riders and its app got over 1 million downloads because it has
made a reputation of providing fast and reliable service.² In the recent years, motorcycles-for-hire also known as habal-habal, have been considered as the fastest means of
transportation, particularly amidst traffic congestion in urban areas like Metro Manila. In
some rural areas, it has always been the only mode of transportation in rugged, winding and
narrow roads that cannot be negotiated by regular vehicles. Unfortunately, habal-habal is an
unregulated, illegal mode of transport and considered colorum, despite being widely used in
rural areas and increasingly in urban locales.

Perhaps, in recognition of the viability of motorcycles as a mode of public
transportation, the Department of Transportation issued General Guidelines for the Pilot
Implementation of Motorcycle Taxis in May 2019, which declares a six-month pilot run of
motorcycle taxis beginning in June 2019. The test run aims to further study the legalization
of motorcycle taxis through testing its safety and economic viability.

¹ Sabingning, Kris. (January 18, 2019). “DOTr prefers amending law to legalize Angkas.” Information retrieved at
² Reyes, Riza Raoul (30 November 2018). “Angkas: Riding with the winds of change.” Information retrieved at
With the worsening traffic situation coupled with the lack of better options, habal-habals became a means to ease the suffering of the riding public. This is the reason why there is a need to allow motorcycles-for-hire to operate because they help in ferrying people. Legalizing motorcycles-for-hire would help regulate its operations, at the same time protect both the operator and the riding public. This move will also allow our fellow Filipinos a decent livelihood as motorcycles-for-hire drivers or operators.

It is high time for the government to listen to the growing clamor from the commuters and that is to legalize the operations of motorcycles-for-hire and motorcycle ride-hailing apps like Angkas.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

VILMA SANTOS-RECTO
AN ACT
ALLOWING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES AS PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 4136 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Words and Phrases Defined. – As used in this Act:

(a) X X X

X X X

(m) X X X

(N) PUBLIC UTILITY MOTORCYCLES – ANY TWO-WHEELED MOTOR VEHICLE WEIGHING LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND KILOGRAMS (1,000 KG) THAT CAN TRAVEL FASTER THAN FIFTY KILOMETERS PER HOUR (50 KM/H) AND HAS AN ENGINE CAPACITY OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE CUBIC CENTIMETERS (125 CM³) SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) AS FOR HIRE AND MAY BE USED AS COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TO FERRY THE COMMUTING PASSENGERS."

SEC. 2. Section 7 of R.A. No. 4136 shall be amended to read as follows:
Section 7. Registration Classification. - Every motor vehicle shall be registered under one of the following described classifications:

(c) X X X

(d) Public utility automobiles; e) public utility trucks; (f) taxis and auto-calesas; (g) garage automobiles; (h) garage trucks; (i) hire trucks; [and] (j) trucks owned by contractors and customs brokers and customs agents[.]; AND K) PUBLIC UTILITY MOTORCYCLES. Application for registration under these classifications shall be accompanied by a certificate of public convenience or a special permit issued by the [Public Service Commission] LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB), and motor vehicles registered under these classifications shall be subject to the Public Service Law, rules and regulations, as well as the provisions of this Act."

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Transportation shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other parts, sections or provisions hereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,