

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9167



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

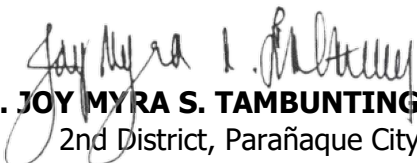
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Earlier in 2020, the Land Transportation Office has implemented a stricter policy on the issuances of driver's licenses to new applicants. The new policy requires driving course certificates for application for student-driver permits, new driver's licenses, and additional restriction codes. Those applying for student-permits are required to complete a fifteen-hour theoretical driving course on traffic laws, rules and regulations; while applicants for new driver's licenses (whether professional or non-professional) are required to complete at least eight hours of practical driving lessons from LTO-accredited driving schools.

Although this Representation supports the intent of this policy to ensure safer roads through law-abiding drivers, this new policy translate to additional costs which may hinder many poor Filipinos seeking to earn a living by driving public utility vehicles such as jeepneys, buses, taxis, and tricycles.

As such, this measure seeks to assist indigent individuals seeking to apply for a license to operate a public utility vehicle as a means of livelihood by shouldering some of the additional costs and introduce incentives to make this new process of license application more accessible to them. This measure shall provide qualified applicants a (1) twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of various clearances, certificates and fees required by the LTO; and (2) fixed daily allowances to cover the cost of commuting to and from their chosen driving school.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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AN ACT
PROVIDING SUBSIDIES AND OTHER INCENTIVES FOR INDIGENT PUBLIC UTILITY DRIVERS IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES REQUIRED BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN APPLYING FOR A PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Indigent Public Utility Driver's License Application Subsidy Act”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and improved quality of life for all.

The State shall contribute towards this end by expanding accessibility to government services and providing subsidies and incentives to indigent individuals who are seeking livelihoods as drivers of public utility vehicles.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a) Applicant – refers to an individual seeking to apply for a license to operate a public utility vehicle as a means of livelihood. Qualified applicants under this Act are individuals whose per capita income falls below the official poverty threshold as defined by the government as identified and certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) based on the criteria set under Republic Act No. 11315 otherwise known as the “Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act”;
- b) Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) – refers to a motor vehicle considered as a public transport conveyance or common carrier duly registered with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and granted a franchise by the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Sec. 4. Subsidies and Other Incentives for Qualified Applicants. – Under this Act, qualified applicants shall be granted a twenty percent (20%) discount in the payment of the following clearances, certificates and fees required by the LTO in applying for a Professional Driver's License:

- a) Birth certificate from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- b) Medical certificate from an LTO-accredited clinic or physician;
- c) Clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- d) Clearance from the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- e) Enrollment fees for Theoretical and Practical Driving Courses given by LTO-accredited and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-certified driving schools;
- f) Examination Fees; and
- g) Other government-issued documents and fees that may be required by the LTO.

Priority registration shall be given to applicants in cases where Theoretical and Practical Driving Courses in LTO-accredited and TESDA-certified driving schools can be enrolled in free of charge. Furthermore, applicants shall be given a fixed daily allowance for expenses incurred in the commute to and from their chosen driving school.

The LTO shall reduce the requirement that Professional Driver's License applicants should be holders of a valid Non-Professional Driver's license for one (1) year prior to application down to three (3) months.

Sec. 5. Penalties. – Any public officer or employee who refuses or fails to provide the benefits granted to qualified applicants outline in Section 4 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00).

Prosecution for an offense set forth in this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of any other existing laws, including civil service law, rules and regulations.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in consultation with Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Health (DOH), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 7. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and thereby remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,