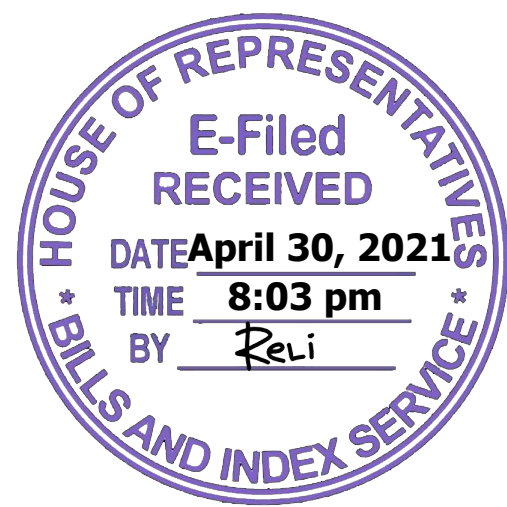


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9285**



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

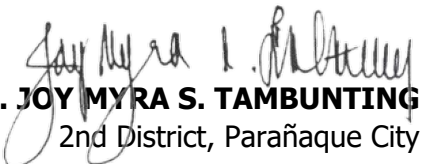
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Persons with disabilities deserve to enjoy the same rights as others do in our society. They should be able to live freely and independently as possible. Out of 92.1 million household population of the Philippines in 2010, 1.443 million are persons with disabilities. On a daily basis, 15 out of the 50 people we interact with would be persons with disabilities.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stresses on the need for State Parties to take appropriate measures and enforce mechanisms to enable the full and effective participation and inclusion of PWDs in society.

Mobility is a vital means by which people participate in a society, it is incumbent upon the state to make streets and roads more accessible especially for visually impaired or blind people. As visually impaired or blind people could not perceive visual signals it only makes sense to incorporate additional devices which would assist them in traversing streets and intersections more confidently. In this regard, this measure seeks to introduce accessible pedestrian signals (APS) which are device affixed to traffic signal poles that communicates information about the "WALK" and "DON'T WALK" intervals at signalized intersections in non-visual formats, such as audible, tactile, vibrotactile and other visible methods in order to provide crossing information to all pedestrians, including people who are blind or visually impaired.

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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HOUSE BILL NO. **9285**

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AN ACT
REQUIRING TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE TO BE EQUIPPED WITH ACCESSIBLE
PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

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 “Accessible Pedestrian Signals Act.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Persons with disabilities are part of the Philippine society, thus, the State shall give full support to the improvement of their total well-being and integration into the mainstream of society. Towards this end, the State shall adopt policies ensuring the self-reliance of this vulnerable segment of our population.

Sec. 3. Accessible Pedestrian Signal. – Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) is defined as a device affixed to traffic signal poles that communicates information about the “WALK” and “DON’T WALK” intervals at signalized intersections in non-visual formats, such as audible, tactile, vibrotactile and other visible methods in order to provide crossing information to all pedestrians, including people who are blind or visually impaired.

When an APS uses audible tones, it shall have a specific tone for the walk interval and clearance phases utilizing internationally recognized standards.

Two distinct sounds shall be used for the WALK phase: one distinct sound for the North/South crossing and another distinct sound for the East/West crossing. In addition, there shall be a distinct sound for the North/Sound clearance phase and another distinct sound for the East/West clearance phase. The tones shall be at least two (2) decibels and no more than five (5) decibels greater than the ambient noise level, must be sensitive to level changes, and must be audible to the mid-point of the crossings.

Sec. 4. Installation of APS. – Subsequent to the effectivity of this Act, all new traffic signal poles that have yet to be installed shall be equipped with and APS. For existing traffic signal poles, and APS shall be installed in an order of priority following a criteria set by the Department of

Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which shall give preference to locations most populated by Persons with Disabilities.

Sec. 5. Duty-free Importation. – The DPWH shall certify APS devices and parts that are unavailable in domestic markets and shall transmit such certification to the Department of Finance. The APS devices and parts so certified may be imported by any government agency or instrumentality exempt from taxes and duties on importation.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance, and the National Council on Disability Affairs shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

Approved,