

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 375**



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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued recently Memorandum Circular 2017 - 024 as supplementary amendment to Memorandum Circular 2005 - 014 (Supplement to M.C. 2003 - 033) granting student fare discount to students seven (7) days a week including school breaks, legal and special holidays providing financial relief to the students and their parents. The intent of said M.C. is laudable and should be institutionalized to shelter it from changes in policy or administration.

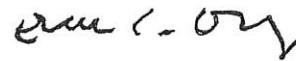
This bill will institutionalized said initiative and policy of the LTFRB and expanding further the enumeration of public transport systems to include UV expresses, taxis and transport network vehicles (TNVs) and Point-to-Point buses which are new types of public transport systems.

However, the said initiative of LTFRB falls short to provide the same privileges to students who use or commute via rail transits and railway systems like Metro Rail Transit (MRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT) and train system. Said mode of public transport is beyond LTFRB's jurisdiction and is under the mandate of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) which manages the MRT, LRTs and railway system. Thousands of students use these transport systems to travel to and from their homes and schools since these are cheaper and faster means of transport to avoid the grueling traffic that is part of the daily lives of people in the Metro Manila and urban areas. Thousands of students also preferred to live with their parents in nearby or adjacent provinces around Metro Manila which is now referred to as Mega

Manila (that includes the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan). Many students ride the Philippine National Railway system from Laguna to travel to Metro Manila, not only during school days but also during weekends and school breaks. If the modernization plan will be realized, the North Luzon Railway system will be operationalized and will serve the people living in north of Metro Manila, most probably will be a mode of transport to students living north of Metro Manila.

This bill intends to balance the privileges enjoyed by students using the regular mode of public transport and the new and emerging modes of transport systems not only during school days but even during school breaks and holidays when the students will go home to their families.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – In accordance with the Constitution, the State shall promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall provide incentives to ease the financial burden of the students and their parents. In furtherance of this policy, the State shall institutionalize the grant of student fare discount to all students at all levels.

**SECTION 2.** *Coverage.* – All students, those enrolled in any elementary, secondary, technical and vocational or higher education institution shall avail of the twenty percent (20%) discount from Monday to Sunday including summer breaks, legal and special legal holidays on all land transportation services including but not limited to: public utility buses (PUBs) including Point-to-Point buses, public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, UV expresses, transport network vehicle services (TNVs); and rail transit systems such as metro rail transit (MRT), light rail transits (LRTs) and other railway services.

However, Post-graduate students such as those taking up medicine, law, doctoral degrees and the like shall not avail of the said fare discount.

**SECTION 3. *Implementation.*** – Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to exercise its mandate to determine, prescribe and approve and periodically review and adjust fares, rates and other related charges as provided for in Executive Order 202. Likewise, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall exercise its mandate to determine, prescribe and approve and periodically review and adjust fares, rates and other related services to the operation of the railway systems.

The LTFRB and DOTr shall, after consultation with the stakeholders and concerned government agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and in effect.

**SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulation and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**