

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4197
House Bill No.

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, motorized tricycle is defined as the most popular means of transport in small towns and cities, mostly in the rural area. Due to its size and being relatively cheaper to own compared to the jeepney, tricycle has been the choice vehicle in urban and rural settings.

Through Letter of Instructions No. 1482 of then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the legalization of colorum motorized tricycles was established in recognition of tricycles' important role in the existing public transportation hierarchy in municipalities. However, even with the existence of this LOI and the enactment of the Local Government Code in 1991, which left the regulation of tricycles to the judgment and discretion of local government units (LGUs), a uniform set of rules concerning tricycle regulation and the granting of permits and franchises are still lacking in the country.

To be able to avoid problems brought about by varying requirements, fees, as well as conflicting policies as regards the operation and routes of tricycles for cities and municipalities, a bill empowering the LGUs to regulate the operation of tricycles is needed.

This proposed measure provides the cities and municipalities the power to regulate the operation of tricycles and grant permits for the operation thereof within their respective territorial jurisdictions, subject to the guidelines to be prescribed by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). This bill, to be known as the Magna Carta for Tricycle Drivers and Operators Act, extends coverage of accessible and affordable social security, health care benefits and insurance coverage to workers in the tricycle sector.

Furthermore, this measure proposes for the following significant provisions:

1. Simplified procedure of registration and issuance of Motorized Tricycle Operators Permit;
2. One-Stop Shop Center for the tricycle sector to handle all transactions and processing of the business permit applications within their respective jurisdiction;
3. Defined rights and benefits of workers in the tricycle sector; and
4. Responsibilities of the cities and municipalities, such as: identification and designation of viable routes and terminals of tricycles within the municipality or city, and leading a tricycle maintenance program, among others.

In recognition of the roles and contributions of members of the tricycle sector, the passage of this proposed bill is earnestly requested.


VICTOR A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR TRICYCLE DRIVERS AND OPERATORS,
INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for Tricycle Drivers
2 and Operators Act of 2019."

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies.** - It is the policy of the State:

4 (a) To nurture and protect the interests of the tricycle sector by providing them with
5 adequate and timely social, economic and legal services, as well as mechanisms that shall protect
6 their rights and promote benefits that ensure their dignified existence and economic advancement;

7 (b) To recognize, promote, protect the rights of every worker in the tricycle sector including
8 the right to self-organization, the right to decent work, just and humane working conditions, access
9 to social protection, and the right to represent their organizations in a continuing process of
10 consultation and dialogue towards maximizing the provision of a comprehensive package of
11 reforms, interventions, and services in accordance with their articulated needs and interests;

12 (c) To promote gender equity and equality through elimination of gender stereotypes
13 attached to this sector and redefining tricycle drivers as not merely males but also females;

14 (d) To protect women workers in the tricycle sector against gender-based discrimination,
15 exploitation, violence and abuse;

16 (e) To progressively eliminate child labor in the tricycle sector through the creation of more
17 quality jobs for adults, effective enforcement of laws against child labor, improved access to
18 universal education and elimination of cultural factors that tolerate child labor; and

19 (f) To develop the local economy through maximization of the potential and contribution of
20 the tricycle sector.

1 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - Pursuant to this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 2 a. Colorum - a private vehicle operated as a public utility without the benefit of a
3 valid and existing special permit, provisional authority, or franchise;
- 4 b. Motorized Tricycle Operators Permit (MTOP) - the permit that authorizes the
5 holder to operate a tricycle for public transport;
- 6 c. Periodic maintenance - the cleaning and replacing of parts that have been
7 exhausted of their effective service life.
- 8 d. Preventive maintenance - the regular cleaning of the engine and other related
9 parts that affect its performance.
- 10 e. Sanggunian - the Sangguniang Panlungsod or the Sangguniang Bayan, as the case
11 may be;
- 12 f. Tricycle - a motor vehicle composed of a motorcycle fitted with a single-wheel
13 sidecar, or a motorcycle with a two-wheel rear cab, the former having a total of three
14 wheels and the latter having a total of four wheels, otherwise known as the *motorela*.
- 15 g. Tricycle Operators and Drivers' Association or TODA - the organization of tricycle
16 operators and drivers in a given local government unit.
- 17 h. Tricycle Sector - the drivers and operators of tricycles for public transportation in
18 the Philippines.

19 **Sec. 4. Authority to Regulate and to Grant MTOP.** - Subject to the guidelines to be
20 prescribed by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and
21 the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), the cities and municipalities
22 shall have the power to regulate the operation of tricycles and grant permits for the operation
23 thereof within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

24 Before it can issue the MTOP, the concerned LGU is required to submit a tricycle operation
25 plan which includes, among others, the tricycle routes and zones, designation of terminals and
26 maximum number of tricycles operating within its jurisdiction. Such plan shall be subject to the
27 approval of the DOTr and must comply with the guidelines promulgated therefor with the end goal
28 of ensuring overall efficiency, integration and safety of the transportation system.

29 **Sec. 5. Uniform Set of Requirements.** - The local government units (LGUs) having
30 jurisdiction over the city or municipality where the tricycle is registered shall impose no other
31 requirement, restriction, or condition for its operation except the following:

- 32 a. For safety reasons, no tricycle should operate on national highways utilized by 4-wheel
33 vehicles greater than four (4) tons and where normal speed exceed forty (40) kilometers per hour.
34 However, the concerned LGU may provide exceptions if there are no transportation services or

1 modes servicing the said route, either along the highway or crossing the same, other than tricycles,
2 subject to the approval of the DOTR: Provided, however, that when such operation is allowed, the
3 LGU Is mandated to provide appropriate signages, marks for lanes and other safety features to
4 guide and protect the tricycles utilizing the highways.

5 b. Zones must be within the boundaries of the municipality/city. Existing zones within more
6 than one municipality or city, however, shall be maintained; Provided that operators serving said
7 zones shall secure MTOPs from each of the municipalities and/or cities having jurisdiction over the
8 areas covered by the zone.

9 c. A common color for tricycles-for-hire operating in the same zone may be imposed. Each
10 unit shall be assigned and bear an identification number, aside from its LTO license plate number.

11 d. An operator wishing to terminate or suspend its service for more than one month should
12 report in writing such termination or suspension to the Sanggunian which originally granted the
13 MTOP.

14 e. The MTOP shall be valid for three (3) years, renewable for the same period. Transfer to
15 another zone, change of ownership of unit or transfer of MTOP shall be construed as an amendment
16 to an MTOP and shall require appropriate approval of the Sanggunian.

17 f. Operators shall employ only drivers possessing professional licenses duly issued by the
18 LTO. For this purpose, the LTO shall issue guidelines, including theoretical and practical
19 examinations, appropriate for drivers of tricycles.

20 g. No tricycle-for-hire shall be allowed to carry more passengers and/or goods than it is
21 designed for.

22 h. A tricycle-for-hire shall be allowed to operate like a taxi service where, aside from
23 rendering services in the designated terminals, the tricycle can be flagged-down or engaged by
24 passengers on the road within its authorized zone of operation.

25 **Sec. 6. Registration.** - There shall be a simplified procedure of registration and issuance of
26 MTOP in accordance with the framework and principles of this Act. The registration fee for the
27 application for an MTOP shall not exceed one thousand pesos (Php1,000.00). The validity of MTOP
28 shall be for three years. The said fee shall cover the cost of the issuance of the MTOP, the filing fee,
29 franchise fee, inspection fee, fare adjustment fee, amendment, regulatory, and all other fees. No
30 other fees shall be exacted from the tricycle sector business activities or enterprise other than the
31 registration fee as mentioned above.

32 **Sec. 7. One-Stop Shop for the Tricycle Sector.** - All LGUs shall establish a One-Stop Shop
33 Center for the Tricycle Sector (the "Center") which shall handle all transactions and processing of
34 the business permit applications within their respective jurisdiction. The Center shall ensure that

1 the processing of the MTOP shall commence on the day of their application and the registration
2 shall be released within forty eight (48) hours upon submission of the complete requirements.

3 To facilitate efficient and expeditious processing of MTOP applications, LGUs shall formulate
4 a uniform and simple checklist of requirements for registration such as valid proof of identity
5 (barangay clearance, certificate of residency, etc.) and flowchart of the procedure of registration.
6 LGUs shall be responsible in translating the checklist of requirements and flowchart of procedure of
7 registration in their own local dialect. LGUs shall cause the posting of the checklist and flowchart of
8 procedure of registration in at least three (3) conspicuous areas, preferably public areas, in the
9 community and cause the publication of the same in the local newspaper if there be any.

10 **Sec. 8. Rights and Benefits of Workers in the Tricycle Sector.** - The members of the
11 Tricycle Sector shall have the following rights:

12 a. Self-organization to collectively negotiate with government and other entities in the
13 promotion of their welfare and advancement of their interests free from any political interference
14 or favor;

15 b. Informed participation in decision-making processes relevant to the concerns of their
16 sector through their legitimate organizations. Towards this end, they shall be represented in all
17 public hearings for laws, ordinances, or regulations that will affect their sector;

18 c. Safe working conditions with access to medical care services and insurance;

19 d. Freedom from any form of discrimination, violence, exploitation, or harassment;

20 e. Freedom from deprivation of property without valid cause and due process of law;

21 f. All concerned national government agencies, government financial institutions, and local
22 government units shall include in their plans, programs, projects and activities efforts that are
23 supportive of the concerns of the tricycle sector;

24 g. Each LGU shall create a grievance mechanism to deal with the concerns of the members of
25 the tricycle sector;

26 h. The Social Security System and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall, within
27 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate guidelines for the mechanism of
28 collecting premiums from members of the tricycle sector. The Social Security System shall also
29 inform its members from the tricycle sector of loans that they can avail of;

30 i. Any driver shall not be engaged to work in any hazardous work, activity or undertaking,
31 and neither shall he/she be exposed to hazardous working conditions;

32 j. All persons whether from the private or public sectors are prohibited from committing
33 acts of interference or coercion against a member of the tricycle sector, including machinations to
34 influence political and/or religious beliefs of the member of the tricycle sector.

1 **Sec. 9. Role of the Local Government Unit** - Subject to the operating conditions in this Act

2 and the guidelines to be promulgated by the DOTr, LTO and LTFRB, cities and municipalities shall
3 have the following responsibilities:

4 a. The Municipality or City, after consultation with the small transport groups, the affected
5 community, and other sectors or groups, shall identify and designate viable routes and terminals of
6 tricycles within the municipality or city. Viable terminals shall be in proximity to public buildings,
7 markets, commercial districts, or commercial establishments and other places which the public
8 frequently visits.

9 b. The Sanggunian shall, within 90 days after the survey and/or consultation in the
10 preceding paragraph, pass an ordinance designating the viable terminals of tricycles as specified in
11 this Act. No designation of terminal, however, shall be conducted without prior consultation with
12 the tricycle sector, the affected inhabitants and other sectors. LGUs that have already established or
13 designated routes and terminals of tricycles prior to this Act are deemed to have complied with this
14 provision of the Act, provided that the aforesaid establishment or designation of terminals have
15 been undertaken after consultation with the relevant parties.

16 c. LGUs shall also lead a tricycle maintenance program. This shall be done by teaching the
17 existing TODAs within their jurisdiction on preventive and periodic maintenance. Technical and
18 administrative capability shall be sourced through partnerships with private institutions and
19 through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

20 d. Vocational education on auto-mechanics and related courses like engine repair and
21 maintenance shall also be developed by the LGUs in cooperation with the Department of Labor and
22 Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

23 e. There shall be a conduct of a mandatory Tricycle Drivers Safety Program at the LGU level.
24 The content and structure of the Tricycle Drivers Safety Program shall be formulated by the DOTr,
25 LTO, LTFRB and other relevant government agencies. The LGU shall require all tricycle drivers
26 within its jurisdiction to undergo this orientation. To complement this, the LTO and LTFRB shall
27 include a Motorist Awareness Program in all its safety trainings.

28 f. LGUs shall also eliminate illegal or colorum tricycle units.

29 g. LGUs shall provide for alternative livelihood and skills-training programs to allow tricycle
30 drivers to explore more economically rewarding sources of income.

31 h. LGUs shall pursue and implement a comprehensive, rights-based, participatory and
32 gender responsive framework for workers in the tricycle sector that includes but is not limited to:

33 1. Putting in place policies and programs that will bring members of the tricycle sector to
34 the economic and social mainstream;

- 1 2. Pursuing structural reforms in all relevant levels of LGUs by creating committees, special
2 offices for development and protection of workers in the tricycle sector and supporting
3 their representational rights through their organizations;
- 4 3. Extending coverage of accessible and affordable social security and health care benefits to
5 workers in the tricycle sector; and
- 6 4. Exacting responsibility on the part of the tricycle sector workers provided that the state
7 shall recognize their rights and put in place responsive, transparent and accountable
8 mechanisms to ensure the protection, promotion and realization of those rights.

9 **Sec. 10. Policy on Impounding of Vehicle and Imposable Penalties.** - Tricycles shall not

10 be impounded, confiscated or destroyed for mere violation of license or registration or traffic rules
11 and regulations, unless the said vehicle was utilized in the conduct of criminal activities. In case of
12 mere violation of traffic rules and regulations, a traffic violation ticket shall be issued to the erring
13 driver without impounding the said vehicle.

14 The responsible person or officer who violated this Section shall be administratively liable
15 under this Act. Nothing herein shall prohibit the aggrieved member of the tricycle sector from
16 initiating a criminal or civil action against the responsible person or officer whenever such action is
17 applicable.

18 The imposable penalties for tricycle drivers who are found to violate traffic rules or
19 regulations shall be limited to fifty percent of the fine or penalty that can be imposed on drivers of
20 four-wheeled vehicles.

21 **Sec. 11. Phase-in of More Efficient Engines.** - Within thirty (30) days after the effectivity
22 of this Act, the DOST and the DOTr shall partner to create a continuous program to develop more
23 efficient engines and cleaner technologies that may be used by the tricycle sector, at the own
24 initiative or volition of tricycle drivers and/or operators.

25 **Sec. 12. Coordination Between Local Government Units and the DOTr.** The
26 implementation of the national policy as regards curbing traffic must be taken into consideration in
27 the enforcement of this Act. The DOTr shall ensure that its guidelines for the regulation of tricycles
28 by LGUs must be mindful of the state of traffic in the country. Furthermore, the DOTr must
29 efficiently and meaningfully coordinate closely with the LGUs as regards the regulation of the
30 tricycle sector.

31 **Sec. 13. Mandatory Membership in SSS and PhilHealth, Life and Accident Insurance,
32 and Legal Assistance.** - The Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Health Insurance
33 Corporation (PhilHealth) shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate
34 guidelines for the mechanism of collecting premiums from members of the tricycle sector.

1 Tricycle drivers shall, in addition to SSS and healthcare coverage, be provided accident
2 insurance coverage to compensate for damage or injury acquired such as death, disability, limb
3 amputations, loss of sight, hearing, and speech; including the loss of thumb or the index finger.

4 Tricycle drivers are also entitled to legal assistance in the exercise and pursuit of their
5 rights herein granted.

6 **Sec. 14. Funding.** - An initial appropriation of One Billion Pesos (Php1,000,000,000.00) is
7 hereby appropriated for this Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for the effective implementation of
8 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

9 **Sec. 15. Penalties.** - (a) Any person who shall wilfully interfere with, restrain or coerce any
10 member of the tricycle sector in the exercise of his/her rights, or shall in any manner act in
11 violation of Sections 8, 9 or 10 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less
12 than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos
13 (Php500,000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year or both, at the discretion of the court.

14 (b) A driver who operates a tricycle without the necessary MTOP to be observed by the
15 tricycle sector in pursuit of cleaner technologies and in accordance with Republic Act 8479,
16 otherwise known as the "Clean Air Act", including any who incurs delinquency in payment of fees
17 that is tantamount to an incomplete application for an MTOP, operates in highways without valid
18 authorization, transports passenger and/or goods beyond the limitations on the number of
19 passengers and on load capacity, or operates a tricycle not compliant with environmental laws shall
20 be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) but not more than Two
21 Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) or the impoundment of the tricycle by an enforcement agency for a
22 period of two (2) months.

23 (c) An operator who operates without the necessary MTOP or authority to operate in
24 highways or employs a driver without the requisite license to drive a tricycle, including those below
25 the age of majority, or allows a driver to operate a tricycle that is not roadworthy or with
26 unauthorized modification affecting vehicle safety, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five
27 Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) but not more than Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00). The second
28 and succeeding offenses shall warrant the revocation of the MTOP or franchise and the perpetual
29 disqualification from being issued the said privilege.

30 (d) If the offender is a public official, the court may, in addition to the penalties provided in
31 the preceding paragraph, impose the penalty of disqualification from office.

32 **Sec. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DOTr, in coordination with the LTO,
33 LTFRB, SSS, PhilHealth, DOLE, TESDA, DOST, DTI and the Department of the Interior and Local
34 Government (DILG), shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act within
35 ninety (90) days from its effectivity. The IRR shall include the guidelines for the allocation of the

1 fund for subsidizing the SSS or PhilHealth premiums of the members of the tricycle sector and the
2 programs that will benefit them.

3 **Sec. 17. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
5 valid and subsisting.

6 **Sec. 18. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
7 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, ordinance, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
8 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

9 **Sec. 19. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
10 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,