Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS** 

First Regular Session
House Bill No. 6510



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ and FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As car ownership in the Philippines steadily increases over the years, the regulation of parking facilities, consistent with the declared policy of the State "to protect the interest of the consumer, promote the general welfare and to establish standards of conduct of business and industry" under Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, has become all the more relevant.

This bill aims to provide the minimum standards for parking facilities and to empower the Department of Trade and Industry to monitor and respond to consumer complaints regarding unreasonable parking fees.

With due regard to the growing demand for parking spaces in commercial establishments, consumer's ever-changing preferences, and the need for a reasonable rate of return on investments, elevating the standards for acceptable parking facilities is necessary to ensure the quality of service provided to consumers.

The foregoing premises considered, the approval of the attached bill is urgently sought.

YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

Tingog Sinirangan Party List

ERDINAND MARTING. ROMUALDEZ

1<sup>st</sup> District, Leyte

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# Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ and FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR ALL KINDS OF VEHICLES, PROVIDING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH FACILITIES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Parking Regulation Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to prioritize public safety and public welfare, as well as protect the interest and promote the general welfare of consumers while allowing reasonable return on investments to businesses and upholding the property rights of owners. It is the policy of the State to avoid overcrowding of parking areas and to assure that designated spaces shall not be wasted and be given to legitimate clients, visitors, customers and patrons of the establishments. Towards this end, the State shall promulgate measures that will protect consumers who lease parking facilities offered by business operators.

SECTION 3. Coverage of this Act. – This Act shall cover all parking facilities for all kinds of vehicles such as but not limited to automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles,

etc., including parking spaces in establishments providing health services, establishments providing accommodation, food business stores, schools and educational institutions, and commercial establishments including independent parking enterprises.

**SECTION 4.** Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a) Parking Fee refers to the amount paid or charged for the use of parking spaces within the covered establishments.
- b) Customer refers to a person, party or patron, who avails of a product or service in a Covered Establishment for which the parking space is primarily intended.
- c) Parking Client/s refers to someone who solely avails of the parking space in the Covered Establishments.
- d) Covered Establishment/s refers to either establishment providing health services, establishments providing accommodation, food business stores, schools and educational institutions, commercial establishments, and other similar businesses, whether privately or government-owned, including independent parking enterprises charging a parking fee from its patrons and clients.
- e) Independent Parking Enterprise/s refers to any establishment, whether privately or government-owned, which provide parking spaces and charge a corresponding parking fee for its use as its primary line of business.

**SECTION 5.** Provision of Parking Spaces; Regulation of Parking Fees of Covered Establishments. – Covered Establishments are encouraged to offer their parking spaces to their Customers free of charge.

Should Covered Establishments opt to impose Parking Fees for the use of their parking spaces, the Parking Fees shall be reasonable.

The Department of Trade and Industry shall determine whether Parking Fees imposed by Covered Establishments are reasonable, taking into consideration the cost of operating the parking facility, the convenience of the Customer, and the quality of services provided to Customers. For this purpose, Customers and/or Parking Client can submit complaints of unreasonable Parking

Fees to the Department of Trade and Industry – Consumer Protection Group, in accordance with its rules.

SECTION 6. Prohibition on Invoking Waiver of Liability. – Covered Establishments shall maintain and provide security in the parking spaces of their establishments. They shall not include a waiver of liability in the terms and conditions for the use of their parking facilities.

Covered Establishments shall assist affected Customers and/or Parking Clients in reporting any loss or damage to their vehicle during the use of the parking space to the proper law enforcement authorities. Covered Establishments shall likewise extend all necessary assistance to law enforcement authorities during the investigation.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent affected Customers and/or Parking Clients from collecting damages from the responsible persons for any loss or damage caused to their vehicle.

Covered Establishments shall be held liable for damages provided, that the Customer or Parking Client exercised diligence to protect his/her own property, and the results of the investigation finds that:

- The Covered Establishment has willfully neglected to perform its duties as a Covered Establishment under this Section: or
- The Covered Establishment fails to provide assistance to the Customer, Parking Client or law enforcement authorities in the course of the investigation.

SECTION 7. Obligations of Customers and Parking Clients in Using Parking Spaces and/or Facilities. — Customers and Parking Clients shall only park in designated parking spaces of the Covered Establishments that they will particularly visit, do business with, or make any similar transaction. Customers and/or Parking Clients are likewise enjoined to exercise diligence in the protection of their vehicles and its contents when using parking facilities.

SECTION 8. Minimum Standards for Parking Facilities. – All Covered Establishments shall comply with the National Building Code and provide adequate security measures in its parking facilities, such as provision of security

guards, surveillance cameras, and directional and safety signage, and all other applicable laws for Senior Citizens and for Persons with Disabilities.

SECTION 9. Provision for Bicycle Parking. – All covered establishments and institutions are hereby mandated to install a fixed structure, which shall serve as their designated bicycle parking areas

SECTION 10. Penalties. – For any violation of the provisions of this Act, the owner, manager, or any other person responsible, or in case of a partnership, corporation or association, the president and the directors or managers thereof who have consented to or knowingly tolerated the violation, shall be fined with not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) per vehicle, or after multiple successive violations, a suspension or cancellation of business permits and licenses, or both, upon the discretion of the court.

SECTION 11. Transitory Provision. – All Covered Establishments are given a grace period of one (1) year upon the implementation of this Act, to create the necessary logistical and technological adjustments. After the said period, all covered establishments must be fully compliant with the provisions and requirements as laid out in this Act.

**SECTION 12.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 13.** Application. – This Act shall be followed by all local government units. No local ordinance shall be passed which will increase the obligations of Covered Establishments.

**SECTION 14.** Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 15.** Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letter of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations as well as local ordinances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 16. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.