

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3221



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

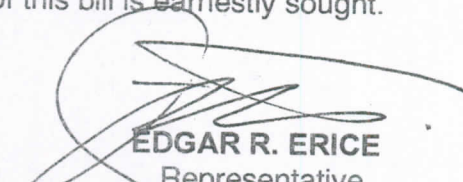
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to improve and standardize the quality of the services being delivered by public utility bus operators/companies authorized to engage in business of public transportation here in the Philippines by compelling these operators/companies to comply with the established standards provided by the International Organization for Standardization.

According to the 2015 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Philippines has a population of 100.98 Million. Given, therefore, the low motorization which is estimated at a ratio of 30 cars per 1,000 people, bus transport verily plays an important role in the economy by providing an affordable mode of transportation. Concomitant with the essential role of public utility bus company/operator is their responsibility to observe extraordinary diligence in the transportation of commuting public and ensure their safety.

As aptly described by the Supreme Court, public utilities are privately owned and operated businesses whose services are essential and of paramount importance to the general public. They are enterprises which specially cater to the needs of the public and conduce to their comfort and convenience. As such, public utility services are impressed with public interest and concern. The same is true with respect to the business of common carrier which holds such a peculiar relation to the public interest that there is superinduced upon it the right of public regulation when private properties are affected with public interest, hence, they cease to be *juris privati* only. When, therefore, one devotes his property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect grants to the public an interest in that use, and must submit to the control by the public for the common good, to the extent of the interest he has thus created (*Pantranco v. Public Service Commission*, 70 Phil. 221.)

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC UTILITY BUS OPERATORS/COMPANIES
REGISTERED AND OPERATING IN OR ENGAGED IN BUSINESS IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND GRANTED FRANCHISES THEREOF TO SECURE
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE STANDARDS SET
BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
FROM ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENCIES.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be called the “Public Utility Bus Safety Act of 2014.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to promote the safety of the commuting public in riding public utility buses.

SECTION 3. *ISO Certified.* - All public utility bus operators/companies registered and operating in or engaged in the transportation of the commuting public who were granted franchises thereof are hereby required to secure certificate of compliance with the appropriate standards set by the International Organization (ISO) from accredited certifying agencies within 1 year from the enactment of this law.

SECTION 4. *Penalty.* – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is hereby authorized and mandated to revoke the franchises, deny application therefore or renewal thereof, of all public utility bus operators/companies which failed to comply with the above requirement within the period provided.

SECTION 5. *Grace Period.* – LTFRB has discretionary authority to grant, for justifiable reasons, a non-extendible grace period of not more than 90 days to comply with the above requirement.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provisions or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,