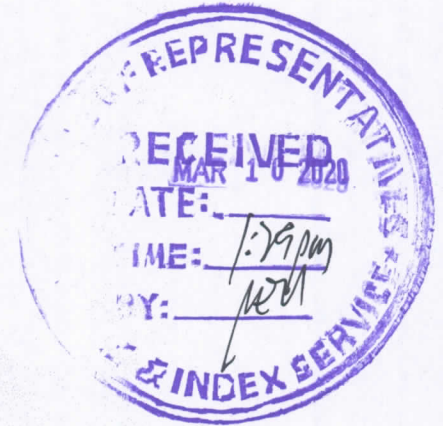


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6533



Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2017, according to the data of the Department of Transportation, there were thirty-one (31) individuals who died each day due to road crashes. More than half of these deaths are among vulnerable road users, among which are pedestrians.

Last February 12, 2020, an incident occurred in Makati City which resulted in the death of a 14-year old student and the injuries of 7 others. These students were on their way home to their families after class. While crossing the pedestrian lane, a jeepney ran over them. The reckless driver tested positive for methamphetamine use. He has confessed that he was using illegal drugs. Yet, he was still able to drive a public utility vehicle.

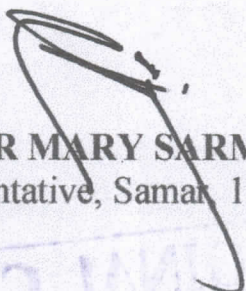
The use of illegal drugs by our Public Utility Vehicle drivers is alarming. We are entrusting each of these individuals with the lives of hundreds of passengers, pedestrians, and other road users per day. For each time that a person drives their vehicle while high on drugs, the risks that the ordinary citizens are being subjected to are incalculable.

The duration of the validity of the driver's license has recently been increased from three to five years to five to ten years. That is a considerable amount of time. Before the drivers are granted this privilege, they must first show that they are qualified. Thus, this bill seeks to provide for mandatory drug testing for public utility vehicles driver's license applicants.

This mandatory drug test is not the end all be all for our problem on drugs and road crashes. However, it is part of the solution we must implement to solve

these. Rather than responding late, it provides the government with a proactive and preventive intervention.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the bill is earnestly sought.


EDGAR MARY SARMIENTO
Representative, Samar 1st District

ORIGINAL COPY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6533

Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY DRUG TESTING OF
PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS**

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

1 SEC. 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as
2 the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002," is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:

4 "Section 36. *Authorized Drug Testing.* – Authorized drug testing
5 shall be done by any government forensic laboratories or by any of the
6 drug testing laboratories accredited and monitored by the DOH to
7 safeguard the quality of test results. The DOH shall take steps in setting
8 the price of the drug test with DOH accredited drug testing centers to
9 further reduce the cost of such drug test. The drug testing shall employ,
10 among others, two (2) testing methods, the screening test which will
11 determine the positive result as well as the type of the drug used and the
12 confirmatory test which will confirm a positive screening test. Drug test
13 certificates issued by accredited drug testing centers shall be valid for a
14 one-year period from the date of issue which may be used for other
15 purposes. The following shall be subjected to undergo drug testing
16

1 X X X

2 **(h) Applicants for Public Utility Vehicle Driver's License.** No
3 **driver's license for Public Utility Vehicle drivers shall be issued or**
4 **renewed unless he/she presents a certification that he/she has**
5 **undergone a mandatory drug test and that he/she is free from the use**
6 **of dangerous drugs.**

7 X X X"

8
9 **SEC 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The present Dangerous
10 Drugs Board, in consultation with the DOH, DOTr, LTO, and LTFRB, and
11 other concerned agencies shall promulgate within sixty (60) days the
12 Implementing Rules and Regulations that shall be necessary to implement the
13 provisions of this Act.

14
15 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – In the event that any provision of this
16 Act is declared unconstitutional, invalid, or illegal, the constitutionality,
17 validity, or legality of the remaining provisions of this Act shall not be affected
18 thereby.

19
20 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive
21 orders, memorandum circulars which are inconsistent with the provision of this
22 Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

23
24 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
25 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 Approved,