

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4994

Introduced by Representative **TYRONE D. AGABAS**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize student fare discount in all forms of public transport system to balance the regular mode of public transport vis-à-vis the developing modes of transport systems.


The State shall protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all (Section 1, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). To this end, the State shall ensure that the students shall also equitably benefit from the fare discounts mandated by the State.

Over the years, significant protective measures have been undertaken by the State to shield students from the soaring cost of education. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) through Memorandum Circular Nos. 94-001, 2003-033, 2005-014, and 2017-024, among others, provided Twenty Percent (20%) fare discount to students. Notably however, these circulars issued by the LTFRB made reference only to transport systems which are within its jurisdiction to regulate. It excluded railway transport system which is within the realm of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to regulate.

To maximize the application of the 20% fare discount in an integrated transport framework, there is a need to institutionalize fare discount to all forms of public transport system regardless of the government agency regulating it.



Hence, this earnest request for the immediate passage of this bill.



TYRONE D. AGABAS
Representative
6th District, Pangasinan

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* –It is the policy of the State to
2 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels
3 and to provide incentives to ease the financial burden of the
4 students and their parents. Towards this end, the State shall
5 institutionalize the grant of student fare discount to all students at
6 all levels.

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

17 However, Post-graduate students such as those taking up
18 medicine, law, doctoral degrees and the like shall be excluded to
19 avail of the said fare discount.

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

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

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

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

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

43 Approved,