

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1300

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The public transportation crisis has raised the cries of woe from stranded and long queueing commuters. This is compounded specially by taxi drivers mulcting commuters with their fast meters or charging them illegal and exorbitant rates in a per trip basis. Worse, some of them, without cause, do not even allow commuters to ride on their taxis if the places of destination are not to their liking. This is practically anarchy in the streets.

This bill seeks to encourage taxi drivers to honor the law and bear always in mind that the contract of carriage and the obligation of common carriers is at all times visited with public interest. This may be done by providing sanctions and penalties against taxi operators and their drivers. The liabilities provided herein shall be independent of, and be without prejudice to, their liabilities under existing laws, rules and regulations.

The early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT
PENALIZING THE CHARGING OF TAXI FARES WHICH ARE HIGHER THAN
THE OFFICIAL RATES, THE FAILURE TO USE THE TAXI METERS OR THE
REFUSAL TO CARRY WITHOUT CAUSE TAXI PASSENGERS TO THEIR
PLACES OF DESTINATION**

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

SECTION 1. Any person who charges taxi fares which are higher than the official rates, or who does not use the taxi meter system in charging a passenger his fare, or who, without valid cause, refuses or does not carry or bring any person to his place of destination shall, after due process, be penalized with a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00) and shall be suspended from driving for a period not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years. Any subsequent violation of the foregoing acts shall be penalized with a permanent disqualification of the offender from driving a common carrier.

SECTION 2. (a) The common carrier or operator of the vehicle violating Section 1 hereof shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00).

(b) The vehicle involved in the violation under Section 1 hereof shall be impounded and be in the custody of the appropriate government agency which

has the authority to license common carriers for a period of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months.

SECTION 3. The investigation or hearing of any complaint under this Act shall be summary in nature and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process: *Provided,* That the operator or common carrier shall be duly notified of the same.

SECTION 4. The liability under this Act shall be independent from, and be without prejudice to, any liability under other laws.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of Transportation and Telecommunications is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,