Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand twenty.

RESOLUTION NO. 119

RESOLUTION URGING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES, THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXTEND THE CONDUCT OF THE MOTORCYCLE TAXI PILOT STUDY PROGRAM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF GATHERING ENOUGH DATA IN CRAFTING A MEASURE FOR ITS REGULATION AND RESPOND TO THE NEED FOR THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the traffic congestion in Metro Manila and other urban centers in the country has led to new innovations in public utility operation. Modern technology has provided a platform for a more convenient and efficient means of delivering transportation services using the internet;
WHEREAS, starting with 4-wheeled transportation network vehicle service (TNVS), the operation of internet-based public transport has expanded to include motorcycle (MC) taxis;

WHEREAS, this innovation in public utility operation, however promising it may be, must be regulated to address safety, economic, health, and security considerations for the riding public, among others;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code does not explicitly allow the operation of motorcycles as public transportation which necessitates the need to amend it;

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) formed a technical working group (TWG) for the purpose of gathering data towards the submission of a recommendation to amend Republic Act No. 4136;

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2019, DOTr issued the General Guidelines for the Pilot Implementation of Motorcycle Taxis. Subsequently, Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) was appointed to chair the TWG for the implementation of the pilot study program to gather information relative to the viability of MC taxi operations;

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the adoption of quarantine measures on March 17, 2020, the necessary information could not be collected properly and the critical activities of the project which began last December 23, 2019 and ran only until March 23, 2020 could not be pursued;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated June 22, 2020, the TWG Chairperson furnished the Committee on Transportation an Executive Summary Report of the results of the pilot study program based on the available data;
WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, on July 30, 2020, conducted a *motu proprio* inquiry on land transportation policies post-enhanced community quarantine, including several issues surrounding the DOTr-TWG pilot study program which was attended by concerned government agencies such as the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19, DOTr, and LTO, as well as the MC taxi operators, commuter groups and other private stakeholders;

WHEREAS, during the meeting, the MC taxi operators briefed the Committee of the safety and security measures that they plan to put in place once the government approves to extend the pilot study program for the operation of the MC taxis;

WHEREAS, the outcome of the report of the DOTr-TWG as admitted by Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante was focused on the aspect of safety and not on the operation of MC taxis as a viable solution to address the transportation shortage deemed vital in the country’s effort to revive the economy;

WHEREAS, the Committee, after hearing the resource persons and stakeholders, concluded that the pilot study program needs to be resumed for the following reasons:

(1) The data gathered during the pre-terminated pilot study program are not sufficient for Congress to come up with a responsive measure to regulate the operation of MC taxis;

(2) There is a need to complete all the planned activities that were initially included in the plans for the motorcycle taxi pilot study program;

(3) There is a shortage in public transportation because of the reduced capacity of existing public utility transportation providers;
(4) To curb the practice of illegal habal-habal especially in areas where there is limited transportation and provide an alternative which is safer and regulated; and

(5) To revive the economy in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, the availability of public transportation to ferry workers to their places of work is badly needed;

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the Committee has reiterated the sentiment of the Committee through numerous letters to the members of the IATF-EID and the DOTr pursuant to several motions by Committee members to extend the pilot study program that were duly approved during the Committee meeting;

WHEREAS, the IATF-EID, NTF and the DOTr should extend the motorcycle taxi pilot study program to determine its impact with respect to road safety and public health welfare;

WHEREAS, during the extended project period, Congress shall, through the exercise of its oversight powers, monitor the developments of the pilot study program and for this purpose, the implementing body of the pilot study program shall submit their organizational chart, rules, regulations, parameters and other reports for the evaluation and consideration of the Committee on Transportation of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 and the Department of Transportation to allow the extension of the conduct of the motorcycle taxi pilot study program until such a time that an appropriate law is passed to allow the gathering of critical data necessary in the crafting of a policy that shall regulate the operation of motorcycle taxis in response to the need for the provision of additional modes of transportation.

Adopted,

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on November 16, 2020.

JOCIELA BIGHANI C. SIPIN
Secretary General
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