



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9087

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ROBES, ERIGUEL, CANAMA, ORTEGA (P.) AND  
OLIVAREZ, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1242

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE FREIGHT SERVICES  
IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF RELIEF GOODS TO  
CALAMITY-STRICKEN AREAS

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2   “Relief Goods Free Transportation Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to  
4   strengthen existing mechanisms that will facilitate quick responses  
5   to the demands and needs during disasters and emergencies and to  
6   encourage altruism among the citizens when it is necessary to  
7   provide timely relief to the victims of catastrophic phenomena by  
8   engaging the services of both public and private common carriers,  
9   freight forwarders, freight companies and other logistics companies  
10   to collect, sort, store, transport, and deliver relief goods donated by  
11   international and local donors to areas declared in a “state of  
12   calamity” in the most economical, reliable, speedy and secured  
13   manner.

1 another and categorized either as international freight forwarders  
2 or domestic freight forwarders;

3 (g) *Freight forwarders* refer to persons or companies that  
4 organize shipments for individuals or corporations to get goods from  
5 the manufacturer or producer to a market, customer or final point of  
6 distribution;

7 (h) *International humanitarian assistance* (IHA) refers to  
8 any aid and action taken by any duly coordinated foreign  
9 government or organization in the form of financial donations,  
10 international relief workers and in-kind donations, for the benefit of  
11 disaster-stricken areas, aimed at providing emergency response,  
12 rehabilitation and recovery operations to mitigate the effects of  
13 disasters or major emergencies;

14 (i) *Private carriers* refer to those entities, without being  
15 engaged in the business of carrying as a public employment, which  
16 undertake to deliver goods or passengers for compensation;

17 (j) *Relief* refers to interventions to alleviate, ease, or  
18 mitigate a distressed or critical situation affecting persons, families,  
19 groups or communities;

20 (k) *Relief goods* refer to food packs and nonfood items such  
21 as clothing articles, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen wares,  
22 water container, hygiene kits, and medical and health-related  
23 products to be given directly to the victims of a disaster or an  
24 emergency;

25 (l) *Response Cluster* refers to the National Disaster Risk  
26 Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) cluster or group of  
27 humanitarian agencies working in a unified manner in providing  
28 assistance to the needs of the affected population; and

1           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

2           (a) *Common carriers* refer to persons, corporations, firms or  
3           associations offering their services to the public and engaged in the  
4           business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods or both, by  
5           land, water, or air, for compensation;

6           (b) *Disaster* refers to a serious disruption of the functioning  
7           of a community or a society involving widespread human, material,  
8           economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the  
9           ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own  
10          resources, the conditions and vulnerability that are present, and  
11          insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the  
12          potential negative consequences, which may include loss of life,  
13          injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical,  
14          mental and social well-being, together with damage to property,  
15          destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic  
16          disruption, and environmental degradation;

17          (c) *Donated goods or articles* refer to free food or nonfood  
18          items given in kind by any individual or group or entities as a  
19          response to the need to provide emergency basic needs to  
20          disadvantaged or distressed individuals and families;

21          (d) *Duly registered relief organization* refers to any relief  
22          organization, not operated for profit, duly registered, licensed or  
23          accredited with the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
24          (DSWD) or with any national government agency;

25          (e) *Emergency* refers to unforeseen or sudden occurrence,  
26          especially danger, demanding immediate action;

27          (f) *Freight companies* refer to companies that specialize in  
28          the moving or transporting of freight or cargo from one place to

1 (m) *State of calamity* refers to a condition involving mass  
2 casualty or major damages to property, disruption of means of  
3 livelihoods, roads and normal way of life in the affected areas as a  
4 result of the occurrence of natural or human induced hazard.

5 SEC. 4. *Free Freight Services for the Transportation of Relief*  
6 *Goods.* – With the aim of bringing immediate relief to victims of  
7 natural or man-made disasters when government resources are not  
8 available or are insufficient to address the needs of the emergency,  
9 the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), in coordination with the  
10 Philippine Postal Corporation (PPC) and all freight companies,  
11 common carriers, private carriers, freight forwarders and other  
12 companies providing logistic services in the Philippines are hereby  
13 mandated to grant free freight services to duly registered relief  
14 organizations in the transportation of emergency relief goods and  
15 donated articles to areas declared to be in a state of calamity by the  
16 President or the local government unit (LGU) concerned through  
17 the sanggunian.

18 These common carriers, freight forwarders, and other similar  
19 entities are mandated to deliver goods and services for free to areas  
20 where they operate.

21 When the area is not accessible, such relief goods shall be sent  
22 or delivered to the nearest LGU and shall be consigned to the  
23 concerned local chief executive.

24 Certain shipping auxiliary costs, such as *arrastre* services,  
25 pilotage, and other port charges that are routinely passed on to  
26 customers, shall be free of charge: *Provided*, That container van  
27 costs, turnaround time, and volume of freight entitled to the free

1 freight charges shall be considered in order to minimize the loss of  
2 profits for the private sector.

3 SEC. 5. *Vigilance Over Relief Goods.* – The Law and Order  
4 Cluster of the NDRRMC shall be responsible in providing security  
5 and traffic management assistance to the Response Cluster's  
6 operations to facilitate the speedy movement of people, goods and  
7 equipment to the affected population and responding agencies.

8 SEC. 6. *Release of Donated Relief Goods and Articles.* – The  
9 release of donated relief goods and articles intended for distribution  
10 to areas under a state of calamity shall be in accordance with  
11 existing rules and procedures of responsible government agencies  
12 such as the DSWD, Bureau of Customs (BOC), LGUs, and other  
13 government agencies mandated to authorize the distribution of  
14 these relief goods and articles, with proper verification of the  
15 receiver and in consideration of prevailing policies of freight service  
16 and logistics companies and carriers.

17 SEC. 7. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of  
18 Transportation (DOTr), through the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB),  
19 Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Land Transportation  
20 Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), shall implement the  
21 provisions of this Act, monitor and oversee compliance of freight  
22 service companies, common and private carriers and other  
23 companies providing logistics services as provided under this Act.

24 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To carry out  
25 the provisions of this Act, the OCD, in coordination with the DOTr,  
26 through CAB, MARINA and LTFRB, BOC, PPC, DSWD and the  
27 association or authorized representatives of freight services  
28 companies and freight forwarders, common and private carriers and



1 other companies offering logistics services in the country shall,  
2 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the  
3 implementing rules and regulations, including a mechanism or  
4 procedure in availing the free services as provided for under this  
5 Act.

6 SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – In the event that any provision  
7 of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a  
8 competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby  
9 and shall remain valid and enforceable.

10 SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive  
11 orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are  
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
13 accordingly.

14 SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
15 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
16 general circulation.

Approved,

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