

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1545



Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

**AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC ROADS IN ALL URBAN
AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This bill seeks to regulate the use of sidewalks and public roads which are meant for the utilization and enjoyment of the general public for the purpose for which they were built.

It is of no secret that urban areas have become so congested that people tend to disregard order and do things convenient to them. Small businesses have used and occupied our sidewalks leaving pedestrians with no choice but to walk by the roadside, thus exposing them to greater risks of bodily injury and even death. Residents who do not have parking spaces in their houses use the streets for their parking lots. Business establishments which do not have ample parking spaces use the roads as parking lots for their own vehicles as well as their clients, thereby clogging the already narrow roads and impeding the free flow of traffic. Adding to the already chaotic situation is the proliferation of public utility terminals. Our roads are not built for such purposes and the taxpayers have all the right to complain.

It is a fact that the traffic congestion in urban areas result to economic losses amounting to billions of pesos yearly. Should these road obstructions be cleared, traffic flow will ease and a more robust economy will result.

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

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Sungsao del Norte



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Sidewalks and Public Roads Use Act*”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to clear sidewalk and public roads from unauthorized commercial or personal use in order to facilitate the smooth passage of persons as well as to clear all obstructions to traffic and vehicular flow. Adequate sidewalk and public road must be maintained to allow safe pedestrian passage and ease in traffic flow that will result in a more progressive economy.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- a. “Sidewalk” means a paved path for pedestrians adjacent to public roads;
- b. “Public roads” means all roads built using taxpayers’ money and built for vehicular traffic;
- c. “Urban areas” means human settlement with high population density and infrastructure of built environment;
- d. “Proper authority” means the local government unit (LGU)

SEC. 4. Prohibited Acts on Sidewalks. – It shall be unlawful for anyone to build any edifice, stall and other similar structures, put up any business and other forms of obstruction, leave garbage and other junk materials, engage in ambulant vending, and other acts that tend to impede or obstruct the use of sidewalks which are meant to service pedestrians. Special permits may be issued by the proper authorities for the temporary use of sidewalks to conduct business such as but not limited to vulcanizing shops, repair shops, parking spaces, eateries, advertisement spaces, and other similar activities.

SEC. 5. Prohibited Acts on Public Roads. – Without permit from the proper authorities, it shall be unlawful to use public roads for parking, business, public utility terminals, and any other activity that tend to impede the free flow of traffic. Only temporary activities may be issued permits for the use of public roads. In no case shall public roads be designated by the local government units or any government agency as parking spaces and/or terminals for public utility vehicles, whether for free or for a fee.

SEC. 6. Content of the Application for Permit on Temporary Use of Public Road and Sidewalk. – The application for the grant of permits for the temporary use of sidewalks and public roads shall contain the following information:

- a. Full name and complete address of applicant/s;
- b. The place where he is allowed to use and the duration of such use;
- c. The purpose of such use; and
- d. If purpose of use is for selling of goods, the products he is authorized to sell.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Agency.* – The municipal or city government shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Act. Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the municipal or city governments shall formulate implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* – The penalties for violations of the provisions of this Act shall be a fine ranging from One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) to Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00), which shall accrue to the Municipal/City Treasury, and confiscation of the obstructions and the impounding of vehicles by the proper authority.

Any permit issued shall be revoked upon violation of the requirements under this Act. Such revocation shall prohibit the grant of a new permit for twelve (12) months from the date of the conviction.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or constitutional, the remained of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,