

Bill for universal 'beep card' filed by QC lawmaker

Manila Standard · 27 Sep 2022 · A4

A BILL has been filed at the House of Representatives proposing to centralize stored-value payments and transactions for public transportation in Metro Manila into a single “beep card”.

House Bill 4913, also known as the “Universal Beep Card Bill,” by Quezon City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas aims to provide a one-cardfits-all system for public transportation in Metro Manila to address the inconvenience and unnecessary costs of paying for multiple contactless smart cards or “beep cards”.

Beep cards are reloadable contactless smart cards introduced in 2015 for the payment of fares for railbased rapid transit transportation through Metro Manila railway lines such as the LRT Line 1, LRT Line 2, MRT Line 3, and select bus lines among others.

The Beep card was created, implemented, and operated by AF Payments Incorporated, and is also used in lieu of cash in some convenience stores and other businesses.

However, in 2016, a different contactless smart card was issued for yet another public transportation project called the Bagong Jeep (BEEP) program which was launched in Metro Manila coinciding with the implementation of the national government’s PUVMP.

The BEEP Program has utilized the “BeepRides” card, a different contactless smart card from the “Beep” card used by rail-based rapid transportation systems. Maricel V. Cruz