

9 SEP 10 P1:50

SENATE
S. No. 3435

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the U.S. National Fire Protection Association, approximately 90 percent of all bus and vehicle fires are caused by electrical, fuel, and/or mechanical failure originating within the engine compartment of the vehicle. These fires can spread quickly, engulfing the entire bus within minutes. An engine-mounted fire suppression system extinguishes flames within the engine compartment instantaneously and prevents a fire from spreading into other parts of the bus.

On January 21, 2005 in Staten Island, New York, a fire in a bus trapped eight children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 2 and 5 while the passenger area filled with smoke. The diesel engine-compartment fire quickly spread to the passenger cabin. The quick thinking of the matron and driver saved those children. However, had an engine-mounted automatic fire suppression system been in place, the driver would not have had to use a knife to cut away the seat belts which melted from the heat in order to get the children off the bus.

Older buses are more likely to experience a fire during crashes due to a general weakening of vehicle structure and components over time. With respect to newer buses, the risk of fire within the engine compartment has increased due to the addition of complex electrical

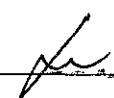
Considering that most of the buses plying our country's roads are of the older kind, this legislation would be of great help in preventing a potential disaster.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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RECEIVED



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1 AN ACT IN RELATION TO ENGINE FIRE SUPPRESSION
2 SYSTEMS ON BUSES
3

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

4 SECTION 1. *Fire Suppression System.* Every bus having a seating capacity in excess
5 of fifteen passengers shall be equipped with a fire suppression system.

6 SECTION 2. *Rules and Regulations.* The Land Transportation Franchising and
7 Regulatory Board shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing standards for the use of
8 engine fire suppression system on all buses.

9 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
10 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
11 modified accordingly.

12 SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
13 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,