

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 201

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS IN THE COUNTRY, IN ORDER TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY LAW

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10054, or the Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009, provides in its Declaration of Policy: "It is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure and safeguard its citizenry, particularly the operators or drivers of motorcycles and their passengers, from the ruinous and extremely injurious effects of fatal or life threatening accidents and crashes";

WHEREAS, there are some 3.5 million motorcycle users in the Philippines; motorcycles comprise 52 percent of 6.6 million registered vehicles in the country; motorcycles are one of the cheapest and most convenient means of transportation whether in urban or rural areas;

WHEREAS, in an article posted on *Yahoo News Philippines*, according to the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the number of road accidents involving motorcycles continues to grow in the last six years; in Metro Manila alone, an average of 120,000 accidents per year are reported, but a steadily growing number of accidents related to motorcycles have nearly doubled from 9.4 percent (11,475) in 2005 to 14.6 percent (20,518) in 2011;

WHEREAS, according to a news report posted on *InterAksyon.com*, in Bacolod City, motorcycle accidents have increased by 856 or 26 percent from January to August 2013 compared to the same period in 2012; in the first eight months of 2012, there were reportedly 3,294 motorcycle accidents in the city, including 14 deaths; as of August 2013, motorcycle accidents have reached 4,150, with 20 fatalities;

WHEREAS, most motorcycle accidents are reportedly due to overspeeding, drivers being under the influence of alcohol, and failure to wear prescribed helmets;

WHEREAS, in recent years, the government has instituted measures to promote motorcycle safety in the country; in 2009, Congress passed the Motorcycle Helmet Act, which mandates all motorcycle riders, including drivers and back riders, to at all times wear standard protective motorcycle helmets while driving, whether long or short drives, in any type of road and highway;

WHEREAS, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) also designated motorcycle lanes in some of Metro Manila's busiest highways, such as EDSA and Commonwealth Avenue;

WHEREAS, despite these measures, the incidence of deadly motorcycle accidents continue to rise in the country, necessitating a comprehensive motorcycle safety law to prevent accidents and promote the safety of motorcycle riders, commuters, and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, this comprehensive motorcycle safety law should include the following provisions: mandatory motorcycle safety seminars for drivers and riders; prohibition on children below 12 years old from riding on motorcycles; limiting the number of people to ride a single motorcycle to the driver and one backrider; and designation of motorcycle lanes in all major thoroughfares;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing incidence of motorcycle accidents in the country, in order to formulate a comprehensive motorcycle safety law.

Adopted,

as. 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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