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SENATE
S. No. 1948

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 3 (2) provides:

[All educational institutions] shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency.

Without immediate action to improve road safety, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that road-traffic deaths will increase by 80 percent in low- and middle-income countries by 2020.

In developed countries like Japan, aspiring drivers have to enroll in formal driving schools to be eligible for a license. In other Asian countries, traffic education is instilled in children through training in “traffic cities,” microscopic environments where real-life traffic situations are simulated. Children are also taught how to properly react to each situation.

In the Philippines, road-traffic accidents are already one of the country’s biggest killers, with children the most at risk. The main reason is that majority of our motorists have not undergone proper training. Most teenagers who make up the bulk of newly licensed drivers probably do not even know the meaning of the color yellow in a traffic light cluster. The reason behind this is that anyone who’s willing and able to pay can secure a driver’s license even without enough knowledge of traffic signs rules and regulations.

According to the UNICEF report on the prevention of road-traffic injuries, more than 4,000 people die each year at a cost of at least \$894 million, or 1.2 percent of the Philippines’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This report also pronounced that road accidents are growing to be the leading cause of death among Filipinos. It is the third leading cause of death in the 15-44

age group. They also have surveys saying that for every 100,000 population, 1,414 from the 0-17 age group die in road-traffic accidents. A big percent of that comes from the 1-4 age group.

Road courtesy should be a way of life that needs to be ingrained in all potential road users as early a stage as childhood. And so our first goal is to help develop a training course specially targeted at elementary and high school students. Young people are the easiest ones to teach -- and with positive results. Docility is a crucial factor here. It may be too late to train those who are already pushing 20, at which stage they have already imbibed so many bad habits and wrong concepts.

This bill seeks to make road traffic safety a separate subject and compulsory at grade six and grade twelve. It is the most serious and comprehensive national road safety strategy and plan of action the government can devise.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 MAKING ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY A SEPARATE SUBJECT AND COMPULSORY
3 AT GRADE SIX AND GRADE TWELVE OF THE ENHANCED K TO 12 BASIC
4 EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -- This Act shall be known as the "Road Traffic Safety for
6 Children Act."

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is the policy of the State to impress upon the
8 students the importance of road traffic safety situation in the Philippines.

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -- As used in this Act, the term:

10 (A) "Road traffic safety subject" means the separate subject that teaches either basic
11 and/or advanced safety driving, road hazards, driving rules and offenses, and use of traffic signs.

12 (B) "DepEd" means the Department of Education.

13 (C) "UP-NCTSP" means the University of the Philippines National Center for
14 Transport Studies Foundation, Inc.

15 SECTION 4. *Road Traffic Safety Subject.* -- The teaching of a separate and compulsory
16 subject called Road Traffic Safety shall be included at grade six and grade twelve of the
17 Enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program.

18 SECTION 5. *Teaching Module on Road Traffic.* --

1 (A) *Basic Road Traffic Safety.*— There shall be a teaching module of basic road traffic
2 safety designed for grade six students which includes the following topics:

3 (1) *Importance of Road Safety.*—

4 (a) *Hazards on the Road.*— *General Objectives:*

5 (i) To present the traffic safety situation in the Philippines
6 focusing on the main causes and victims of traffic accidents
7 and;

8 (ii) To enable students to realize the importance of road safety
9 awareness, given the current road safety situation in the
10 Philippines.

11 (b) *Aftermath of Accidents.*— *General Objective:* To enable students to
12 realize that traffic accidents could have far-reaching effects not
13 only on the victim but on his or her family as well.

14 (c) *Accidents Prevention.*— *General Objective:* To impress upon
15 students that accidents are preventable.

16 (2) *Safe Commute to and from School.*—

17 (a) *Pedestrian and Cyclists.*— *General Objectives:*

18 (i) To observe safety rules, traffic signs and signals important
19 to pedestrians and cyclists and;

20 (ii) To develop in students constant vigilance of traffic from
21 unexpected places when using the streets.

22 (b) *Public Transportation.*— *General Objectives:*

23 (i) To identify the different public transport modes that can be
24 used to go to and from school;

25 (ii) To know where and when students can safely get on and
26 off the different public transport rides and;

27 (iii) To learn the safety features of the different public transport
28 modes.

1 (c) *Private Vehicle and School Transport Services. -- General*
2 *Objectives:*

3 (i) To enable the students to understand better the dangers
4 involved when commuting to school and;

5 (ii) To allow students to develop correct attitude and behavior
6 towards safety when coming to and from school.

7 (3) *Traffic Accident-Free. -- General Objectives:*

8 (i) To create awareness in students that some recreational
9 activities could expose them and others to traffic hazard
10 and;

11 (ii) To equip students with knowledge and guidelines on how
12 to practice road safety when doing recreational activities.

13 (B) *Advanced Road Traffic Safety.* -- There shall be a teaching module of advanced
14 learning on road traffic safety designed for grade twelve students which includes the following
15 topics:

16 (1) *Importance of Road Safety. --*

17 (a) *Hazards on the Road. -- General Objectives:*

18 (i) To present the traffic safety situation in the Philippines
19 focusing on the main causes and victims of traffic accidents
20 and;

21 (ii) To enable students to realize the importance of road safety
22 awareness, given the current road safety situation in the
23 Philippines.

24 (b) *Aftermath of Accidents. -- General Objective:* To enable students to
25 realize that traffic accidents could have far-reaching effects not
26 only on the victim but on his or her family as well.

27 (c) *Accidents Prevention. -- General Objective:* To help students to
28 realize that accidents are preventable.

29 (2) *The Road, Vehicle, Safety, and You.*

- 1 (a) *Road Safety Facilities and Traffic Signs.* – *General Objective:* To
2 enable students to recognize signs and use available road safety
3 facilities properly.
- 4 (b) *Safe Commute to and from School.* – *General Objectives:* To
5 enable students to
- 6 (i) Apply safety precautions/measures to minimize traffic-
7 related accidents at all times;
- 8 (ii) Observe traffic safety rules and traffic signs and signals at
9 all times, important to pedestrians, cyclists, and commuters
10 and;
- 11 (iii) Develop constant vigilance of traffic from unexpected
12 places when using the streets.
- 13 (c) *Vehicle Safety Features.* – *General Objective:* To convince
14 students to use the safety features in cars, motorcycles, jeepneys,
15 and buses.
- 16 (d) *Defensive Driving.* – *General Objective:* To enable the students to
17 understand the 3 P's (philosophy, principles, and practice) of
18 defensive driving.
- 19 (e) *Rules that Ensure Safety.* – *General Objective:* To enable the
20 students to become law abiding drivers in the future.

21 SECTION 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized
22 and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The
23 Secretary shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and
24 regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of
25 this Act.

26 SECTION 7. *Coordinating Agency.* – The UP-NCTSE is hereby authorized to assist the
27 DepEd in designing the teaching module on road traffic safety.

1 SECTION 8. *Educational Materials.* -- It shall be obligatory on all elementary and
2 secondary schools to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbook,
3 primer, and leaflet on Road Traffic Safety to be issued by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine
4 the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrollment of the elementary and
5 secondary school students.

6 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
8 valid and subsisting.

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

12 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after
13 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,