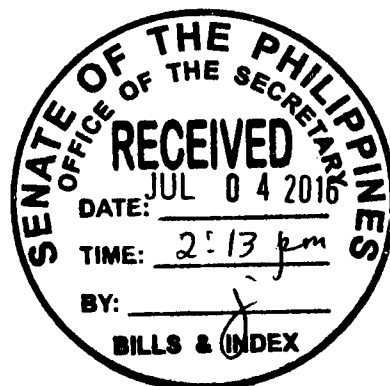


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



SENATE
S.B. 344

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

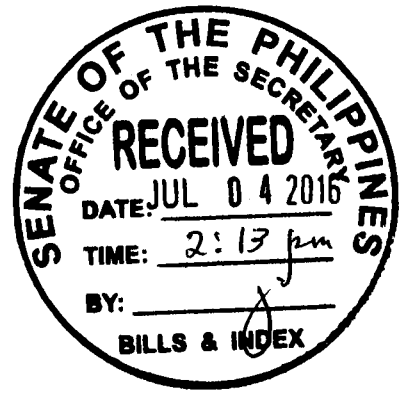
Explanatory Note

It is the objective of the State to promote public safety in the transportation of passengers, particularly school children. To achieve this objective, it is essential that the State shall prescribe minimum design standards of school buses for the safety of its student passengers.

This bill speaks for itself. This bill seeks to prescribe regulations to mitigate the effects of vehicular accidents by prescribing safety standards for school buses.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE



SENATE
S.B. 344

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "*School Bus Safety Act of*
2 *2016.*"

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote safety in order to protect passengers of school buses from injury in case of accidents.

6
7 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms** - For purposes of this Act the terms:

8
9 a) "Bus" means a motor vehicle, except a trailer, designed for carrying more
10 than 10 persons;

11
12 b) "School Bus" means a bus that is used for purposes that include carrying
13 students to and from public or private school or school-related events on a regular basis, but
14 does not include a transit bus or a school-chartered bus;

15
16 c) "School-Chartered Bus" means a bus that is operated under a short-term
17 contract with the school authorities who have acquired exclusive use of the bus at a fixed
18 charge in order to provide transportation for a group of pupils to a special school related
19 event; and

1 d) "Seats Belts" refer to the combined lap belt and shoulder strap that fasten a
2 rider to moving vehicle and prevent the rider from being thrown out or against the interior of
3 the vehicle during sudden stops.
4

5 **SECTION 4. Proficiency Standards for School Bus Drivers.**
6

7 a) Requirement- Not later than one (1) year after the date of enactment of this
8 Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe proficiency standards for school bus
9 drivers who are required to possess a professional license to operate a school bus.
10

11 b) Demonstration of Proficiency- Upon the prescription of standards under
12 subsection (a), each school bus driver referred to in subsection (a) shall demonstrate (at such
13 interval as the Department of Transportation shall prescribe) to the employer of the driver,
14 the school, the licensing agency, or other person or agency responsible for regulating school
15 bus drivers the proficiency of such driver in operating a school bus in accordance with the
16 proficiency standards prescribed under subsection (a) or the proficiency standards established
17 by the State concerned, as the case may be.
18

19 **SECTION 5. Seat Belts in School Buses.**
20

21 a) Requirement for Installation- Not later than one (1) year after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe regulations requiring
23 driver seat belts and passenger seat belts (including lap safety belts or other child safety
24 devices meeting applicable government safety standards) for each seating position in any
25 newly-manufactured school bus Owners of school buses which are not currently equipped
26 with seat belts shall be given a period of six (6) months from the publication of the
27 regulations of this Act to install the necessary seat belts in their school buses,
28

29 b) Promotion of Seat Belt Usage-

30
31 1) In General- The Department of Transportation, in consultation with
32 appropriate safety organizations and parent-teacher organizations, shall conduct a program to
33 promote and encourage the use of seat belts in school buses.

1 2) Elements of Program- In conducting the program required under this
2 subsection, the Department of Transportation shall:

3
4 i. Encourage the local governments to monitor the mandatory usage of
5 seat belts in school buses;

6
7 ii. Develop and disseminate educational materials on the importance of
8 using seat belts to passengers and drivers of school buses; and

9
10 iii. Recognize schools that achieve a high level of seat belt usage by
11 passengers and drivers of school buses.

12
13 **SECTION 6. Registration** - No school bus shall be allowed to be registered unless it
14 is equipped with the necessary seat belts.

15
16 **SECTION 7. Implementing Authority** - The Department of Transportation shall be
17 primarily responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act. For this purpose, the
18 Department of Transportation, in consultation with relevant government agencies and private
19 citizens organizations and stakeholders, shall issue within ninety (90) days from the
20 effectivity of this Act the relevant implementing rules and regulations.

21
22 **SECTION. 8. Separability Clause** - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
24 valid and subsisting.

25
26 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
27 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
28 with any of the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

29
30 **SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

32
33 Approved.