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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 people of the blessings of democracy.*

Hundreds of children are killed and injured in motor vehicle crashes every year. Unfortunately, the government neither requires the use of, nor establishes certain standards and testing procedures for, child restraints. In order to reduce the number of children killed or injured in automobile accidents, the government should require the use of child restraints and establish motor vehicle safety standards that will adequately protect children.

Hence, this bill seeks to require the use of and to improve safety standards for child restraints by:

- (a) considering the modern designs of motor vehicles in use as of the date of enactment of this Act;
- (b) taking into account the effects of a side-impact crash, a rear-impact crash, or a rollover crash; and
- (c) requiring the use of anthropomorphic devices that accurately reflect the heights and masses of children at ages other than newborn, nine (9) months, three (3) years, and six (6) years.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO *ref*

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

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SENATE  
S.B. No. **1682**

FILED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
TO REQUIRE THE USE OF AND TO IMPROVE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CHILD  
RESTRAINTS IN MOTOR VEHICLES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Child Passenger Protection Act.”

SECTION 2. *Testing of Child Restraints.* – (1) IN GENERAL – Not later than two (2) years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall update and improve crash test standards and conditions for child restraints.

(2) ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION – In carrying out subsection (1), the Secretary shall consider –

(A) whether to conduct more comprehensive and dynamic testing of child restraints than is typically conducted as of the date of enactment of this Act, including the use of test platforms designed –

(i) to simulate an array of accident conditions, such as side-impact crashes, rear-impact crashes, and rollover crashes; and

(ii) to reflect the designs of passenger motor vehicles in use as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) whether to use an increased number of anthropomorphic devices in a greater variety of heights and masses; and

(C) whether to provide improved protection in motor vehicle accidents for children up to 59.2 inches tall who weigh more than fifty (50) pounds.

(3) REQUIRED ELEMENTS – In carrying out subsection (1), the Secretary shall –

(A) require that manufacturers design child restraints to minimize head injuries during side-impact and rollover crashes, including requiring that child restraints have side-impact protection;

(B) include a child restraint, as a requirement, in each vehicle applying for registration;

(C) prescribe readily understandable text for any labels that are required to be placed on child restraints.

(4) FUNDING – There are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Child Restraint Safety Training Program.* – Not later than two (2) years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and implement a safety rating program for child restraints to provide practicable, readily understandable, and timely information to parents and caretakers for use in making informed decisions in the purchase of child restraints

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,