

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

8 FEB 11 2011

SENATE  
S. No. 2061

RECEIVED BY         

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 13 provides:

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

All over the world, thousands of children die each year in motor vehicle accidents, the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and younger. Current law requires children younger than six years of age to be properly secured in a child passenger safety seat system during the operation of a motor vehicle and not to be seated in the front passenger's seat.

This bill increases the age and introduces a height requirement relating to the restraint of children during the operation of a motor vehicle to younger than eight years of age, unless the child is taller than four feet and nine inches in height.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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1 AN ACT  
2 AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8750, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SEAT BELTS  
3 USE ACT OF 1999, SECTIONS THREE AND FIVE

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8750, as amended, otherwise known  
7 as the Seat Belts Use Act of 1999, is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 "SECTION 5. [*Children Prohibited to Sit in Front Seat*] *Special Protection for Child*  
9 *Passengers.* – Infants and/or children with ages [six (6)] EIGHT (8) years and below  
10 shall be prohibited to sit in the front seat of any running motor vehicle UNLESS THE  
11 CHILD IS TALLER THAN FOUR FEET NINE INCHES. THE USE OF SPECIAL  
12 CAR SEATS OR CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS FOR INFANTS/ CHILDREN LESS  
13 THAN EIGHT (8) YEARS SHALL BE MANDATORY IF THE CHILD IS NOT  
14 ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT IN THE BACKSEAT. IN THE CASE OF MOTOR  
15 VEHICLES WITHOUT BACKROW SEATS, CHILDREN AGES EIGHT (8) YEARS  
16 AND BELOW MAY BE SEATED IN THE FRONT SEAT, PROVIDED THAT, THE  
17 VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM THAT IS  
18 MANUFACTURED AND CRAFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
19 INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE INDUSTRY STANDARDS. IN ALL CASES,  
20 THE PROVISION FOR AND INSTALLATION OF THE CHILD RESTRAINT  
21 SYSTEM SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VEHICLE OWNER."

1 SECTION 2. Section 3 paragraph (h) is hereby added to read as follows:

2 "SECTION 3. (h). "CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM" SHALL REFER TO BEDS  
3 FOR BABIES, SEATS FOR INFANTS AND SEATS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN."

4 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise  
5 known as the Seat Belts Use Act of 1999, and all laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
6 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or  
7 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed  
8 accordingly.

9 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
11 remain valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
13 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,