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SENATE  
S. No. 1486

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 13 provides that:

SEC. 13. 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.\*

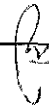
*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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\* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8750, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SEAT BELTS  
USE ACT OF 1999, SECTIONS THREE AND FIVE

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,