

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

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10 JUL 21 AM 10:45

SENATE
S. No. 1709

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There's too much technology in the car — dangerous technology that can kill drivers. Experts say that technology is turning the car into a “mobile living room” and that could be dangerous. Portable televisions in cars, especially in the front, are hazardous and distract motorists. Their presence is dangerous and may cause accidents and traffic jams.

According to a survey, conducted by Internet-based research and marketing firm InsightExpress, watching television while driving is dangerous. Although not scientific, the survey and the proposed bill bolster beliefs that watching television causes distraction while driving and may contribute to automobile accidents and near misses. For most motorists, the issue should come as no surprise.

Safety issues must be given more premium than the immense popularity of portable televisions on cars. Early evidence suggests that vehicular crashes involving watching television is similar to those involving other distractions, such as eating, applying makeup, using an electric razor, drinking coffee, changing radio stations or other common activities. The proposed Bill seeks to make it illegal to view a TV while driving.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ccs

¹ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

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1 AN ACT
2 MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE IF A
3 TELEVISION RECEIVER, A VIDEO MONITOR, OR A TELEVISION OR VIDEO
4 SCREEN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR MEANS OF VISUALLY DISPLAYING A
5 TELEVISION BROADCAST OR VIDEO SIGNAL THAT PRODUCES
6 ENTERTAINMENT OR BUSINESS APPLICATIONS, IS OPERATING AND IS
7 LOCATED IN THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT ANY POINT FORWARD OF THE BACK
8 OF THE DRIVER'S SEAT, OR IS OPERATING AND VISIBLE TO THE DRIVER
9 WHILE HE OR SHE IS DRIVING THE MOTOR VEHICLE.

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

10 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act may be known as the "*Vehicle Television*
11 *Broadcast or Video Signal Displays Act.*"

12 SEC. 2. *Prohibition.* - A person may not drive a motor vehicle if a television
13 receiver, a video monitor, or a television or video screen, or any other, similar means of
14 visually displaying a television broadcast or video signal that produces entertainment or
15 business applications, is operating and is located in the motor vehicle at any point
16 forward of the back of the driver's seat, or is operating and the monitor, screen, or display
17 is visible to the driver while driving the motor vehicle.

18 SEC. 3. *Exceptions.* - Section 2 of this Act does not apply to the following
19 equipment when installed in a vehicle:

- 20 (1) A vehicle information display.
21 (2) A global positioning display.
22 (3) A mapping display.
23 (4) A visual display used to enhance or supplement the driver's view forward,
24 behind, or to the sides of a motor vehicle for the purpose of maneuvering the
25 vehicle.

26 (5) A television receiver, video monitor, television or video screen, or any other
27 similar means of visually displaying a television broadcast or video signal, if
28 that equipment satisfies one of the following requirements:

29 (a) The equipment has an interlock device that, when the
30 motor vehicle is driven, disables the equipment for all uses
31 except as a visual display as described in paragraphs (1) to
32 (4), inclusive.

33 (b) The equipment is designed, operated, and configured in
34 a manner that prevents the driver of the motor vehicle from
35 viewing the television broadcast or video signal while
36 operating the vehicle in a safe and reasonable manner.

37 SEC. 4. *Penalties* - Any person who shall violate this Act shall suffer the penalty
38 of suspension of Driver's License for a period of thirty (30) days and the fine of Ten
39 Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)

40 SEC 5. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
41 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
42 remain valid and subsisting.

43 SEC 6. *Repealing Clause*. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
44 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or
45 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
46 accordingly.

47 SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
48 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.