

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

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SENATE
S. No. 1884

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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 is intended to provide more protection for children riding in motor vehicles.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MS

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

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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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 2. Section 3 of the same law is hereby amended by adding paragraph (h) to
2 read as follows:

3 "SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

4 xxx. xxx xxx

5 (h) "CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM" SHALL REFER TO SEATS
6 FOR INFANTS AND FOR CHILDREN DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO
7 PROTECT INFANTS AND CHILDREN FROM INJURY OR DEATH
8 DURING COLLISIONS."

9 SECTION 3. *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 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 3 and 5 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise
13 known as the Seat Belts Use Act of 1999, are hereby amended. All laws, acts, presidential
14 decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or
15 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,