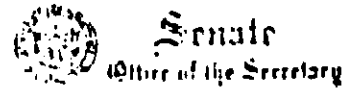


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 NOV 26 P5:04

SENATE
S. No. 3021

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**AN ACT
TO PROMOTE MANDATORY USE OF HELMETS WHEN RIDING BICYCLES,
NON-MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, ROLLER SKATES OR ROLLER BLADES AND
SKATEBOARDS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Riding anything with wheels is a popular recreation activity for persons of all ages. Filipinos, both adults and children, love riding bikes, non-powered scooters, roller skates and skate boards for recreation and as a means of transportation. However, riding these wheeled contraptions is very dangerous. People are exposed to various injuries, especially head traumas. Although there is no data on the frequency of helmet use among Filipinos, it is common knowledge that majority of Filipinos do not wear helmets or any protective gear when they ride bikes, scooters, roller skates or roller blades and skate boards.

We cannot underestimate the advantages of wearing a helmet to prevent head injury. Helmets work by dissipating the sharp energy of a blow over a large surface area. Studies show that a properly worn bicycle helmet can effectively reduce the occurrence of brain injury by 63 to 88%.

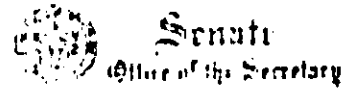
In the Philippines, helmet use by motorcycles is already mandatory. While I have already filed a bill to promote bicycle helmet use, there is still no legislation promoting the use of helmets when skateboards, scooters, roller skates or roller blades and skate boards are used. To remedy the vacuum in the law, this bill seeks to promote mandatory

use of helmets for people who use not only bicycles, but also non-motorized scooters, skateboards and roller skates or roller blades.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was filed during the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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SKATEBOARDS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Safe Riders Act.”

2 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
3 to promote the general welfare by providing means to ensure people’s safety when they
4 use wheeled contraptions.

5 SECTION 3. *Application.* – This Act will apply –

6 (1) at all times while a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, roller skates or roller
7 blades and skateboard is being operated on any street, road, parks, or other property open
8 to the public or used by the public for pedestrian or vehicular traffic and places of
9 recreation; and

10 (2) to a person who is riding on a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, roller skates or
11 roller blades and skateboard including a person who is a passenger on a bicycle or a non-
12 motorized scooter:

13 (a) in a restraining seat attached to the bicycle; or

14 (b) in a trailer or side car being towed by the bicycle. However, this Act
15 shall not apply to passengers of commercial pedicabs unless the local government
16 units involved provides otherwise.

1 SECTION 4. *Restrictions.* – A person to whom this Act applies may not operate or
2 ride as a passenger on a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, roller skates or roller blades and
3 skateboard unless the person is wearing a helmet that is properly worn and meets or
4 exceeds the standards for protective headgear for use in bicycles, non-motorized scooter,
5 roller skates or roller blades and skateboard, set by the appropriate government agency or
6 by any applicable international standards.

7 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – This Act shall be enforced by the issuance of a warning
8 that informs the offender of the requirements of this Act and provides educational
9 materials about bicycle helmet use. However, repeat offenders or parents or guardians of
10 minor repeat offenders, will be fined P500.00 for each repetition of the offense.

11 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
13 provisions hereof.

14 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
15 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
16 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

17 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
18 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/imf5Nov2015