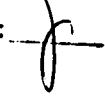




16 JUL 19 P5:13

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 581

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT  
REQUIRING THE USE OF SEATBELT DEVICES IN SCHOOL SERVICES,  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 8750,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SEATBELTS USE ACT OF 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the Seatbelts Use Act of 1999 by requiring all passengers and drivers of school services such as school buses to use their seatbelts.

Crash test and case study data indicate that seat belts provide improved crash protection and are especially beneficial in side-impact and rollover school bus accidents. Seat belts also reduce other types of injuries by restraining children who may otherwise be out of their seats. This also helps improve passenger behavior and reduce distractions to school bus drivers. In addition, seat belts provide another important benefit, namely, educating children as to seat belt use and reinforcing seat belt use in motor vehicles.

Although school services accidents are relatively rare in the country, when they do occur, innocent children wind up in casualties, and the whole community is affected. It is therefore imperative to promote the safety of our children by providing standards in their public transportation.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
*Senator*



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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the Seatbelts  
2 Use Act of 1999 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3

4                   **"SECTION 4. Mandatory Use of Seat Belts.** - For their own safety,  
5 the driver and front seat passengers of a public or private motor vehicle are  
6 required to wear or use their seat belt devices while inside a vehicle of running  
7 engine on any road or thoroughfare: *Provided,* That for private vehicles,  
8 except for jeepneys, vans, buses and such other private vehicles as may be  
9 determined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), front and back  
10 seat passengers are likewise required to use their seat belt devices at all times.  
11

12                   In the case of public motor vehicles, the driver shall be required to  
13 immediately inform and require the front seat passengers upon boarding a  
14 vehicle of running engine to wear the prescribed seat belts. Any passenger  
15 who refuses to wear seat belts shall not be allowed to continue his/her trip.  
16

17                   For special public service vehicles [such as school services and other  
18 similar vehicles], **EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL SERVICES**, as may be  
19 determined by the IRR, seat belt devices should be provided and used by all  
20 drivers and front seat passengers as defined herein and the first row  
21 passengers immediately behind the driver at all times while inside a vehicle of  
22 running engine.  
23

24                   Operational motor vehicles, both public and private, which are not  
25 equipped with the required seat belt devices, are given one (1) year from the  
26 issuance of the IRR by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to retrofit  
27 appropriate seat belt devices in their vehicles."  
28

29           **SEC 2.** Another section is to be added after Section 4 to read as follows:  
30

1                                   **"SECTION. 5. SEATBELTS IN SCHOOL SERVICES. –**  
2                                   FOR SCHOOL SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL BUSES, SEAT  
3                                   BELT DEVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND USED BY BOTH  
4                                   DRIVERS AND ALL PASSENGERS AT ALL TIMES WHILE  
5                                   INSIDE SUCH VEHICLE OF RUNNING ENGINE.  
6

7                                   ALL SCHOOL BUSES PURCHASED BY PUBLIC AND  
8                                   PRIVATE SCHOOLS SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH SEATBELT  
9                                   DEVICES IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE  
10                                  INDUSTRY STANDARDS. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
11                                  SHALL ADOPT RELEVANT PROGRAMS AND RULES:  
12

- 13                                 1. REQUIRING THE USE OF SEAT BELT DEVICES BY PUPILS  
14                                 BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOUR AND TWELVE ON SCHOOL  
15                                 SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL BUSES;  
16
- 17                                 2. PROVIDING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE FOR ANY PUPIL  
18                                 WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION AND ANY  
19                                 RULE ADOPTED REGARDING THE USE OF SEAT BELT  
20                                 DEVICES ON SCHOOL SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL  
21                                 BUSES; AND  
22
- 23                                 3. ENCOURAGING PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND  
24                                 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
25                                 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF  
26                                 USING SEATBELT DEVICES".  
27

28                                 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
29                                 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
30                                 valid and subsisting.  
31

32                                 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known  
33                                 as the Seatbelts Use Act of 1999, and all laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive  
34                                 orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to, or  
35                                 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
36                                 accordingly.  
37

38                                 **SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
39                                 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
40                                 circulation.

*Approved,*