

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'17 DEC 14 AIO :42

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 218

Submitted by the Committee on Public Services; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Education, Arts, and Culture; and Finance on DEC 14 2017

Re: Senate Bill No. 1637

Recommending its approval in substitution of SBN 162 and SBN 1375, taking into consideration Senate Resolution Nos. 190, 301, 314 and the Privilege Speech of Senator Vicente C. Sotto III on Road Accident delivered on February 21, 2017

Sponsor: Senator Grace Poe

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Public Services; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Education, Arts, and Culture; and Finance, to which were referred Senate Bill No. 162, introduced by Senator Grace Poe, entitled:

AN ACT TO PROMOTE COST-EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND COMMUTING PUBLIC, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Senate Bill No. 1375, introduced by Sen. Ejercito, entitled:

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Taking into consideration:

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III ON ROAD ACCIDENT, DELIVERED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Senate Resolution No. 190, introduced by Sen. Pimentel, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ROAD AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS GIVEN THE ALARMING NUMBER OF VEHICULAR

ACCIDENTS IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO PROVIDE FOR STRICTER REGULATIONS ON ROAD SAFETY IN THE PHILIPPINES, FOR INFORMATION DRIVES BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND FOR THE INCLUSION OF ROAD COURTESY AND DISCIPLINE IN THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Senate Resolution No.301, introduced by Sen. Poe, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, AS PART OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE REPORTED BUS ACCIDENT THAT TRAGICALLY CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 15 PASSENGERS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, FROM BESTLINK COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND TO REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND POLICIES WITH REGARD TO ENSURING THE ROADWORTHINESS OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AND THE COMPETENCE OF DRIVERS OF SUCH VEHICLES

Senate Resolution No.314, introduced by Sen. De Lima, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OCCURENCE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS EMANATING FROM INEFFICIENT VEHICLE INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION PROCESSES, WITH THE END VIEW OF ESTABLISHING STRICTER INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND ENFORCING PENALTIES TO ERRING LICENSING OFFICIALS OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) AND LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB)

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that Senate Bill No. 1637 prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

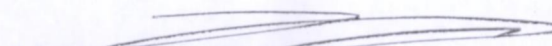
be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 162 and 1375, taking into consideration Senate Resolutions Nos. 190, 301, 314 and the Privilege Speech of Senator Vicente C. Sotto III on Road Accident delivered on February 21, 2017 with Senators Poe, Ejercito, Pimentel, De Lima, Sotto, Escudero and Legarda as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:



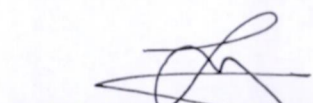
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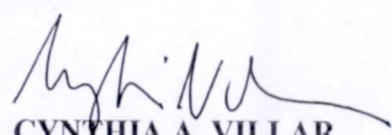
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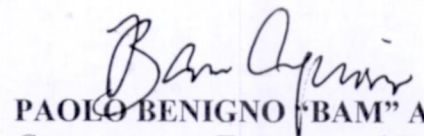
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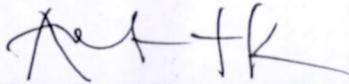
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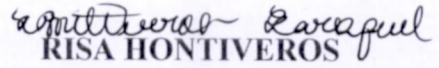
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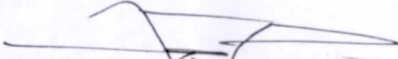


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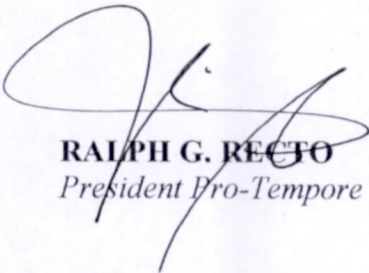
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stay interpellate

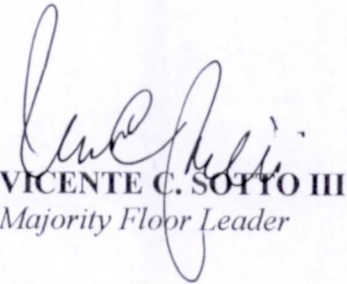


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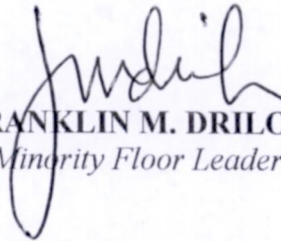
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RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro-Tempore



VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Majority Floor Leader



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Minority Floor Leader

AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III
Senate President



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Senate Bill No. 1637

RECEIVED BY: 

(In substitution of Senate Bills No. 162 and 1375, taking into consideration Senate Resolution Nos. 190, 301, 314 and the Privilege Speech of Senator Vicente C. Sotto III on Road Accident delivered on February 21, 2017)

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Public Services; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Education, Arts, and Culture; and Finance with Senators Poe, Ejercito, Pimentel, De Lima, Sotto, Escudero and Legarda as authors thereof

AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*National Transportation Safety*
2 *Board Act.*”

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote safety in the transportation of people and goods through cost-effective measures that
5 either prevent, remedy or mitigate crashes, accidents and serious incidents involving any
6 mode of transport, including pipelines and conveyors. Towards this end, the Government
7 shall:

8 (a) Conduct independent investigations on transportation accidents and incidents;

9 (b) Support safety programs based on continuing and objective reviews of causes or
10 reasons for unsafe acts and conditions; and

11 (c) Appraise and assess operating practices and regulations of government agencies
12 involved in the transportation sector, insofar as they affect safety, and where
13 appropriate, shall initiate, coordinate, formulate or promulgate safety
14 improvement standards for the observance and implementation by the concerned
15 government agencies and/or private entities.

16 **SECTION 3. Creation of the National Transportation Safety Board.** – There is
17 hereby created a National Transportation Safety Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”
18 which shall be attached to the Office of the President.

19 **SECTION 4. Composition and Organization.** –

1 (a) The Board shall be composed of seven (7) full-time Members, headed by a
2 Chairman. The Chairman and all six (6) Members of the Board, shall be appointed
3 by the President and must:

- 4 a. Be a Filipino citizen at the time of his/her appointment;
5 b. Have at least three (3) years of actual experience in the administration,
6 operation and management of a transport utility firm or regulatory agency
7 in transportation; and
8 c. Be knowledgeable in crash and incident reconstruction, safety engineering
9 or transportation and traffic safety.

10 *Provided*, that each transportation sector—land, rail, air, and sea—shall be
11 represented by one Board Member each; *Provided, further*, that two (2) of the
12 full-time Members must come from the commuting public, including
13 organizations advocating for road safety.

14 (b) The Chairman shall have a term of five (5) years but may be renewed for a non-
15 extendible period of one (1) year; *Provided*, that the term of the initial appointees
16 shall be staggered, such that three (3) Members shall hold office for three (3)
17 years and the other three (3) Members for two (2) years.

18 (c) Upon the expiration of their respective terms, the Members shall continue to serve
19 until their successor is appointed and qualified. In case a Member fails to
20 complete his term, his successor shall only serve the unexpired portion of the term
21 of his predecessor.

22 (d) A Member may be removed from office by the President for cause in accordance
23 with the Civil Service rules and regulations.

24 (e) The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board. He shall exercise
25 all the powers and discharge all functions of the Board. He shall exercise control
26 over all personnel employed by the Board, including the following:

- 27 1. The appointment and supervision of personnel employed by the Board;
28 2. The distribution of business among such personnel and among any
29 administrative units of the Board; and
30 3. The use and expenditure of the funds of the Board.

31 (f) The Board shall establish and maintain distinct appropriately staffed bureaus,
32 division, or offices, to investigate and report on crashes, accidents, and serious
33 incidents involving each of the following modes of transportation:

- 34
35 1. Aviation;
36 2. Motor vehicles;
37 3. Railroads and tracked vehicles;
38 4. Pipelines, and
39 5. Marine transport carriers.

1 (g) The Board shall, in addition, establish and maintain such capabilities as may be
2 needed to investigate and report on the safe transportation of hazardous and toxic
3 materials.

4 **SECTION 5. *The Executive Director.* –**

5 (a) The Board shall have an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the
6 Chairman.

7 (b) No person shall be appointed Executive Director unless he is at least thirty five
8 (35) years of age at the time of his appointment, and a member of the Philippine
9 bar, who has practiced his profession for at least ten (10) years prior to the date of
10 his appointment. He also must not have been a candidate for any elective position
11 in the elections immediately preceding his appointment.

12 (c) The Executive Director shall:

- 13 1. Record and officially report on the proceedings of the Board;
- 14 2. Have authority to administer oaths in all matters falling within the jurisdiction
15 of the Board;
- 16 3. Be responsible for running the day to day operation of the Board;
- 17 4. Act as the custodian of the records, maps, profiles, reports, and other
18 documents and papers filed in connection with any case or proceeding before
19 the Board;
- 20 5. Be responsible for the effective implementation of the policies, rules, and
21 directives promulgated by the Board;
- 22 6. Coordinate and supervise the activities of the different operating units of the
23 Board;
- 24 7. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the Chairman
25 and/or the Board.

26 **SECTION 6. *Compensation.* –**

27 (a) The Chairman and the Members of the Board shall have the rank of a Department
28 Secretary and Undersecretary, respectively. They shall receive the compensation
29 and other emoluments corresponding to those of a Department Secretary and
30 Undersecretary, respectively.

31 (b) The Executive Director shall have the rank of Assistant Secretary and shall be
32 entitled to compensation and other emoluments corresponding to those of an
33 Assistant Secretary.

34 (c) The Chairman, the Members of the Board, and the Executive Director shall be
35 entitled to commutable representation and transportation allowances per month in
36 the amount not exceeding the monthly salary of the lowest-paid regular employee
37 of the Board.

38 (d) The Board shall determine the schedule of salaries of the employees subject to the
39 compliance with the existing compensation law; *Provided*, that the Board shall
40 determine and fix the compensation and fringe benefits of employees holding

1 technical positions that are not common to the agencies of the government which
2 shall be specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations.

3 **SECTION 7. *Duties and Functions of the Board.*** – The Board shall:

4 (a) Investigate or cause to be investigated and determine the facts, conditions,
5 circumstances, and cause of any of the following:

- 6 1. Aircraft accidents and serious incidents, except those involving State aircrafts,
7 in accordance with ANNEX 13 of the International Civil Aviation
8 Organization regulations;
- 9 2. Motor vehicle crashes, including railroad grade crossing incidents;
- 10 3. Railroad incidents and accidents in which there is fatality, substantial property
11 damage, or which involve a passenger train;
- 12 4. Pipeline incident, in which there is fatality or substantial property damage;
- 13 5. Major maritime transportation accidents or incidents occurring within
14 Philippine maritime jurisdiction, except those involving naval vessels or
15 foreign-owed warships: *Provided that*, the Board may aid in any investigation
16 concerning such exempted vehicles if it has secured prior consent from the
17 proper government agency; and
- 18 6. Other serious incidents involving the transportation of people and property,
19 which, in the judgement of the Board, are catastrophic and of a recurring
20 character.

21 (b) Report in writing to Congress and the President on the facts, conditions, and
22 circumstances of each incident investigated pursuant to Section 7 (a) of this Act,
23 and make such report available to the public within sixty (60) days from the
24 completion of the Board's investigation, except in certain cases enumerated in
25 Section 12 of this Act;

26 (c) Initiate and conduct special studies and investigation on matters pertaining to
27 safety in transportation and avoiding injury to persons and damage to property;

28 (d) Gather, analyze, maintain, and publish from time to time data and statistics on
29 transportation crashes, accidents and incidents;

30 (e) Prescribe requirements for persons or agencies reporting transportation incidents,
31 in accordance with their own mandates, except those which involve military
32 vessels or aircrafts;

33 (f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively implement the
34 objectives and provisions of this Act.

35 **SECTION 8. *Powers of the Board.*** –

36 (a) The Board or any Member so designated may conduct hearings, administer oaths,
37 and require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of
38 papers, contracts, agreements and all other relevant documents deemed necessary
39 in any inquiry or investigation pending before the Board.

1 (b) Any representative authorized by the Board, upon presenting appropriate
2 credentials, may enter any property wherein a transportation incident has occurred
3 or wreckage from such incident is located in order to investigate such incident.
4 The representative may inspect at reasonable times, records, files processes,
5 controls, and facilities relevant to the investigation of such incidents. Each
6 inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness.

7 (c) In investigating aircraft accidents or serious incidents, the Board may inspect and
8 test, to the extent necessary, any civil aircraft engine, equipment, propeller,
9 appliance, or property on an aircraft involved in an accident or serious incident in
10 air commerce: *Provided, however,* that any civil aircraft engine, equipment,
11 propeller, appliance, or property on an aircraft involved in air commerce shall be
12 preserved, and may be moved, only as prescribed by regulations promulgated by
13 the Board;

14 (d) An officer or employee of the Board may examine or test any motor vehicle,
15 vessel, rolling stock, track, or pipeline component involved in an accident or
16 incident. Such examination or test shall be conducted in a manner that;

- 17 1. Does not unnecessarily, interfere with the transportation services provided by
18 the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, vessel, rolling stock, or pipeline
19 component; and
- 20 2. To the maximum extent feasible, preserves evidence related to the accident,
21 consistent with the needs of the investigation.

22 (e) The Board shall have the sole discretion to:

- 23 1. Decide the manner of inspection and examination of evidence pursuant to this
24 Act;
- 25 2. Identify the person or persons who or entity that will conduct the inspection,
26 examination or test; and
- 27 3. Identify the type of examination or test to be conducted;

28 *Provided,* that a representative from concerned government agencies shall be
29 present during the inspection, examination, or test conducted pursuant to this Act;
30 *Provided, further,* that all examinations and tests shall be properly documented by
31 photographs and videos.

32 (f) The Board may use a laboratory record made available to it under this Act to
33 develop an evidentiary record in its investigation of an accident or incident if:

- 34 a. The fitness of the tested officer or employee is at issue in the investigation;
35 and
- 36 b. The use of that record is necessary to develop the evidentiary record.

37 (g) The Board may require and shall be furnished a copy of the autopsy reports by the
38 official concerned on any person who died as a result of having been involved in a
39 transportation accident. The Board may order, if necessary, the autopsy of such
40 other deceased, or require tests on such other person or persons as may be needed
41 for the investigation of the accident;

- 1 (h) The Board may enter into such contracts, leases, agreements and other
2 transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its functions and duties;
- 3 (i) The Board may call the assistance, and use any available services, equipment, and
4 facilities of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Transportation
5 (DOTr), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Department of National Defense (DND),
6 Department of Health (DOH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
7 (MMDA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Philippine
8 National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Local
9 Government Units (LGUs), and other agencies and instrumentalities of the
10 government;
- 11 (j) The Board may create advisory committees composed of qualified private citizens
12 and government officials with whom the Board may consult in the implementation
13 of its functions and duties and to pay honoraria of these persons for meetings
14 actually attended. Whenever necessary, the Board may likewise appoint or retain
15 the services of recognized experts as consultants on the incidents under
16 investigation. Such consultants shall be paid compensation as fixed by the Board;
17 *Provided*, that not more than three (3) consultants shall be appointed for each
18 incident being investigated; *Provided, further*, that no officer, external auditor, or
19 legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the
20 transportation industry shall be eligible for appointment as a consultant of the
21 Board;
- 22 (k) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Board may accept voluntary and
23 uncompensated services;
- 24 (l) The Chairman of the Board may determine the number of committees that are
25 appropriate to maintain effective liaison with other departments, agencies and
26 instrumentalities of the national government and LGUs, non-government
27 organizations, and independent standard-setting authorities that carry out
28 programs and activities related to transportation safety. The Board shall designate
29 representatives to serve in the committees;
30
- 31 (m) The Board or any officer or employee designated by the Chairman, may conduct
32 an inquiry to obtain information related to transportation safety;
- 33 (n) The Board may require the submission of records, findings, and/or
34 recommendations of previous incidents and/or investigations of such incidents,
35 from any government agency. For this purpose, the agency concerned shall
36 transmit to the Board, within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, said records,
37 findings, and/or recommendations; and
- 38 (o) The Board, or its designated officer or employee, may issue Orders requiring a
39 department; agency or instrumentality of the national government; LGU; or a
40 person, natural or juridical, which transports persons or goods; to submit to the
41 Board written answers or reports pertaining to questions the Board may propound
42 in line with its current investigations. The Board shall prescribe a reasonable time

1 within which the reports and the answers thereto must be submitted to its
2 designated officer or employee.

3 **SECTION 9. *Consideration of International Law.*** – In the exercise of its powers,
4 the Board shall take into consideration and abide by the provisions of any treaty entered into
5 by the Republic of the Philippines with other countries relative to the investigation of
6 accidents over which the Board assumes jurisdiction.

7 **SECTION 10. *Use of Reports as Evidence.*** – No part of any report or reports of the
8 Board relating to any accident or incident, or investigation thereof, shall be admitted as
9 evidence or used in any suit or action for damages arising out of any matter mentioned in
10 such report or reports, except when the criminal aspect of the accident or incident is put into
11 issue.

12 **SECTION 11. *Relationship with Other Government Agencies.*** –

13 (a) The Board shall have original jurisdiction over incidents enumerated in Section
14 7(a) of this Act; however, nothing in this Act shall deprive other government
15 agencies from performing their intrinsic and mandated functions, including the
16 investigation of accidents or making inquiries thereon, when those functions exist
17 prior to the effectivity of this Act; *Provided*, however, that the Board, at its
18 discretion, may require the submission of the records, findings, and
19 recommendations of the investigation or inquiry, pursuant to its power under
20 Section 8 of this Act;

21 (b) The PNP and other law enforcement agencies shall continue to investigate and
22 record incidents involving motor vehicles and/or pedestrians in accordance to their
23 operational procedures or protocols; and

24 (a) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, the head of the concerned agency shall,
25 upon order or written request by the Board, provide the following information to
26 the Board:

- 27 1. Any report or a confirmed positive toxicological test, verified as positive by
28 the medico-legal officer of the PNP or the NBI, conducted on an officer or
29 employee of the concerned agency under post-accident, unsafe practice, or
30 reasonable toxicological requirements of the concerned with the circumstances
31 of an accident or incident under the investigative jurisdiction of the Board; and
32 2. Any laboratory record documenting that the test is confirmed positive.

33 **SECTION 12. *Disclosure, Availability, and Use of Information.*** –

34 (a) Except as provided in this Section, any record, information or investigative report
35 submitted to the Board shall be made available to the public upon request and at
36 reasonable cost, unless the Board or the Department of Justice prohibits such
37 disclosure due its possible adverse domestic or international impact;

38 (b) The Board shall not disclose any information related to a trade secret except:

- 1 1. To another department, agency, or instrumentality of the national government,
2 when requested for official use;
- 3 2. To a committee of Congress having jurisdiction over the subject matter to
4 which the investigation is related, when requested by that committee; and
- 5 3. To the public; *Provided*, that such disclosure shall be for the protection of
6 public health and safety; *Provided, further*, that the information disclosed will
7 not be detrimental to public health and safety; *Provided finally*, that the
8 disclosure shall be made in a manner designed to protect and preserve its
9 confidentiality:

10 (c) The Board shall not publicly disclose any part of a CCTV footage or voice
11 recording or transcript of oral communications relating to an incident being
12 investigated by the Board: *Provided*, however, that this provision shall not apply:

- 13 1. When the Board holds a public hearing on the accident or incident; or
- 14 2. When the Board makes public its findings relative to the said accident or
15 incident.

16 (d) Except as provided in Section 12 (b) of this Act, the Board shall maintain the
17 confidentiality of, and exempt from disclosure:

- 18 1. Military secrets and findings used in the report, unless authorized by the DND
19 to do so;
- 20 2. Laboratory records provided to the Board;
- 21 3. Medical information related to the test or a review of the test voluntarily
22 provided to the Board by the tested officer or employee.

23 **SECTION 13. *Transportation Safety Fund.* –**

24 (a) There is hereby created a Transportation Safety Fund (“Fund”) from the Board’s
25 savings from its annual operating expense, which shall be deposited in a special
26 trust fund administered by the Board.

27 (b) Subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations, the Fund shall
28 be used exclusively for the following purposes:

- 29 1. Operational expenses in investigating major accidents;
- 30 2. Studies and research in the causes and possible prevention of accidents and
31 other disasters, as provided in this act;
- 32 3. Reimbursement of extraordinary expenditures and expenses of government
33 and private agencies and/or persons mobilized by the Board in investigating
34 major accidents; and
- 35 4. Training and related conferences to further and enhance the expertise of the
36 officers and employees of the Board under the provisions of this Act.

37 **SECTION 14. *Annual Report.* –** The Board shall submit to the President and
38 Congress an annual report at the end of every calendar year containing, among others:

39 (a) Statistical and analytical information of accident or incident investigations
40 conducted and reviewed by the Board during the preceding year;

1 (b) A survey and summary of the recommendations made by the Board to reduce the
2 likelihood of the recurrence of those accidents, together with the observed
3 response to each recommendation;

4 (c) A detailed appraisal of each accident investigation and accident prevention
5 activity of other departments, agencies, other instrumentalities of the national
6 government and the LGUs.

7 **SECTION 15. Appropriations.** – The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P 50,000,000.00)
8 is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
9 for the initial organization and operations of the Board. Thereafter, such sums, as may be
10 necessary for the operations of the Board, shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriations Act.

12 **SECTION 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the DOJ, DOTr, Philippine Coast
14 Guard, DND, DOH, MMDA, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, Maritime Industry
15 Authority, DPWH, PNP, and NBI, shall promulgate the implementing Rules and Regulations
16 (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act. The IRR shall provide procedures geared
17 towards streamlined processes and swift justice by observing timelines or deadlines in
18 rendering decisions and issuances, plain writing or easy-to-understand instructions, and
19 over-all improvement of the industry.

20 **SECTION 17. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
21 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts not affected thereby shall remain valid.

22 **SECTION 18. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, or
23 rules and regulations, or portions thereof, that are inconsistent with this Act or any provision
24 or provisions, thereof, are repealed or modified accordingly.

25 **SECTION 19. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,