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SENATE

S. No. 1897

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ROAD SAFETY  
INSTITUTE UNDER THE U.P. NATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSPORT  
STUDIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Road Safety is a problem in the country, especially in highly urbanized areas. It is considered a public health issue, having contributed significantly to the mortality rate. According to World Health Organization, pedestrians make up 19% of road deaths in the Philippines.<sup>1</sup> Road crash incidents are caused by driver error, defective vehicle condition and bad road condition. The Department of Transportation and Communication (now Department of Transportation) reported that fatalities due to road crashes increase by almost 14.6% each year. With this data, it is estimated that by 2020, about 300,000 will die annually due to road mishap without any intervention.<sup>2</sup>

In 2003, the DOTC (now DOTr) developed the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP). The PRSAP aims to reduce road death rates. The institutional support for the PRSAP requires that the Department establish a clear delineation of responsibilities among all stakeholders, with adequate technical and financial support in managing road safety activities; and to harmonize these activities towards an integrated and well-coordinated national road safety action plan and its program implementation. DOTC coordinates road safety by virtue of Administrative Order

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Global status report on road safety 2015. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2015/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2015/en/). Accessed 21 June 2018

<sup>2</sup> DOTC Assistant Secretary Dante Lantin. Road Safety in the Philippines Country Report. Presented during an Expert Group Meeting in South Korea, May 8-10, 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2.19.Philippines.pdf>. Accessed 21 June 2018.

184 in 2007 and since 2003 the preparation of the road safety action plans had been under the DOTC. Meanwhile, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) has taken over for the 2017-2022 plan.

At present, some of the programs of DOTr include the Data for Road Incident Visualization, Evaluation, and Reporting System (DRIVER System), promoting the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System, BRT Accessibility Infrastructure and Urban Development in some urban centers, and PUV Modernization.

In other countries, there are established road safety institutes to promote road safety – by providing trainings, piloting scientific research and regularly conducting road safety assessments/data gathering, and policy research and development. The same is proposed in this legislation in order to address the road safety issues currently faced. While there are many programs implemented now that are able to contribute to transportation management and road management, and road safety, what is proposed here is a center/institute that will look closely in the road safety aspect.

In the Philippines, the University of the Philippines – National Center for Transport Studies (UP NCTS) has the competency and knowledge in the field of transportation studies. Among their advocacies are sustainable transport, integrated transport system, road safety, and institutional development.

This bill creates the Philippine Road Safety Institute (PRSI) under the UP NCTS, an institute specializing on the transport sector, which will have the proper mandate and funding to regularly provide technical advice on road safety in support of government programs and initiatives.

The PSRI mandate shall cover all aspects of road safety situation in the country, which shall include regularly collecting data pertinent to road safety, developing road safety policy framework, recommending legislation and promulgation of necessary rules and orders, and standards to be adopted by

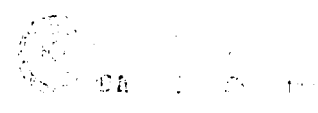
government agencies, among others, and develop road safety annual reports and related study.<sup>3</sup>

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

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA

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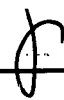
<sup>3</sup> Presentation: Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP) 2011-2020  
[http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade\\_of\\_action/plan/plan\\_philippines.pdf](http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/plan_philippines.pdf). Accessed 21 June 2018.



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ROAD SAFETY**  
**INSTITUTE UNDER THE U.P. NATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSPORT**  
**STUDIES**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Road Safety*  
2 *Institute Act of 2018.*"

3           **Sec. 2.** *Declaration of Principles.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
4 to improve road safety and to protect pedestrians and motorists in our streets,  
5 towards the greater goal of national economic and social development. It shall also  
6 be the policy of the State to establish information systems that will provide data to  
7 ensure the proper research, planning and development of road safety programs.

8           **Sec. 3.** *Definition of Terms.*-

9           (a) Road Safety refers to methods and measures for reducing the risk of a  
10 person using the public roads or road networks being killed or seriously  
11 injured;

12           (b) Public roads refer to roads designed by the national government or local  
13 government units as roads for public use such as, but not limited to, national  
14 highways, provincial roads, city, municipal and barangay streets.

15           **Sec. 4.** *The Philippine Road Safety Institute.* - There is hereby established a  
16 body to be known as the Philippine Road Safety Institute (PRSI). The PRSI shall be  
17 attached to the University of the Philippines National Center for Transport Studies

1 (UP NCTS). Its principal flag office shall be in Metro Manila, but it may establish  
2 other branches or offices elsewhere in the Philippines as may be necessary or proper  
3 for the accomplishment of its purposes and objectives.

4 **Sec. 5. Powers and Functions.**- The PRSI shall have the following powers and  
5 functions:

6 (a) To plan and carry out research and development activities as a center of  
7 knowledge and services in the area of road and traffic safety (road safety data  
8 collection);

9 (b) To provide the data base or policy formulation that will improve the  
10 national road safety status of the country;

11 (c) To organize and develop continuing training programs for transportation  
12 planners, urban planners, traffic enforcers, emergency responders and other  
13 professional workers and students, pertaining to road traffic safety;

14 (d) To formulate policies that would create public awareness through  
15 educational activities, conventions, seminars, conferences, and the like by  
16 focusing on the promotion of road safety;

17 (e) To receive and acquire from any person and/or government and private  
18 entities, whether foreign or domestic, grants, donations and contributions  
19 consisting of such properties, real or personal, including funds and valuable  
20 effects or things, as may be useful, necessary or proper to carry out its purposes  
21 and objectives and administer the same in accordance with the terms of such  
22 grants, donations and contributions, consistent with its purposes and  
23 objectives; and

24 (f) To exercise such other powers and functions, and perform other acts as may  
25 be necessary, proper or incidental to the attainment of its purposes and  
26 objectives.

27 **Sec. 6. Board of Trustees.** - The governance and policy direction of the PSRI  
28 shall be vested in, and its powers exercised by, a Board of Trustees, which shall be  
29 composed of eleven members, as follows:

30 (a) The Secretary of DOTr, as Chairman;

31 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;

- 1 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
- 2 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications  
3 Technology;
- 4 (e) The Chief of the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group;
- 5 (f) The Chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority;
- 6 (g) The Chair of the Land Transportation Office;
- 7 (h) The Executive Director of UP NCTS;
- 8 (i) The Secretary-General or authorized representative of the Philippine Global  
9 Road Safety Partnership; and
- 10 (j) A representative from the private sector

11 A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the  
12 transaction of the business of the Board.

13 **Sec. 7. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Board.*** The Board shall have the  
14 following functions:

- 15 (a) To formulate and adopt policies and measures for the management and  
16 operation of the Institute;
- 17 (b) To approve the staffing pattern of the PSRI;
- 18 (c) To promulgate rules and regulations for the discharge of its powers and  
19 functions and the internal operations of the PSRI; provided, that, the Chairman  
20 of the Board of Trustees shall exercise the power to appoint, promote, discipline  
21 or remove the personnel of the PSRI;
- 22 (e) To manage the financial affairs of the PRSI and approve an annual budget of  
23 receipts and expenditures of the PRSI according to its requirements; and
- 24 (f) To monitor and review periodically the programs and projects of the PRSI.

25 **Sec. 8. *President of the Institute.*** The Director of the UP NCTS shall be  
26 appointed as the President of the PRSI. The President shall be the chief executive  
27 officer of the Institute and shall receive such salary and remuneration as may be  
28 determined by the Board. She/He shall have the following powers and duties:

1 (a) To prepare, for the approval of the Board, the staffing pattern of the PRSI  
2 which shall include the determination of the qualifications, and fixing the  
3 number and compensation of such officials and personnel as may be necessary  
4 for the proper discharge of the functions of the PRSI;

5 (b) To have control and supervision over the personnel, staff, operations and  
6 internal administration of the PRSI in accordance with existing laws and the  
7 rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Trustees;

8 (c) To recommend to the Board of Trustees such policies and measures which  
9 she/he deems necessary for the effective exercise and discharge of the powers  
10 and responsibilities of the PRSI; and

11 (d) To submit an annual report to the Board of Trustees on the operations, the  
12 status of the programs funded by, and the financial condition of, the PRSI,  
13 including a recommendation for its budget for the ensuing year.

14 **Sec. 9. Fees of Research Fellows and Associates.** The PRSI is hereby  
15 authorized to engage researchers and other professional staff from other government  
16 offices and agencies to conduct specialized studies and researches for the PRSI.  
17 Those so engaged by the PRSI shall be issued appointments as Research Fellows or  
18 Research Associates and shall be paid, as they are hereby authorized to be paid, such  
19 fees as determined by the Board in addition to whatever compensation or  
20 emoluments they are receiving in their respective mother offices or agencies

21 **Sec. 10. Government Coordination.** - The PRSI shall assist, cooperate and  
22 coordinate with other government agencies, for the implementation of the purposes  
23 and objectives of this Act.

24 **Sec. 11. Appropriations.**—The amount necessary to carry out the provisions  
25 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following  
26 its enactment into law and thereafter.

27 **Sec. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within thirty (30) days from  
28 the completion of their appointments, the Board shall convene and, in collaboration  
29 with the UP NCTS, formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the  
30 implementation of this Act. Said rules and regulations shall be issued within one  
31 hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the Board's initial meeting and shall take  
32 effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

1           **Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
2 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts  
3 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
4 modified accordingly.

5           **Sec. 14. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared  
6 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby  
7 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

8           **Sec. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in  
10 the Philippines.

*Approved,*