

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate

Office of the Secretary

SENATE
S. No. 939

'19 AUG 20 P2:43

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED BY: _____

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

It is the objective of the State to promote public safety in the transportation of passengers, particularly school children. To achieve this objective, it is essential that the State shall prescribe minimum design standards of school buses for the safety of its student passengers.

This bill speaks for itself. This bill seeks to prescribe regulations to mitigate the effects of vehicular accidents by prescribing safety standards for school buses.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

GRACE POE
act



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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*School Bus Safety*
2 *Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote safety in order to protect passengers of school buses from injury in case of
5 accidents.

6 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act the terms:

7 a) *Bus* means a motor vehicle, except a trailer, designed for carrying
8 more than 10 persons;

9 b) *School Bus* means a bus that is used for purposes that include carrying
10 students to and from public or private school or school-related events on a regular
11 basis, but does not include a transit bus or a school-chartered bus;

12 c) *School-Chartered Bus* means a bus that is operated under a short-term
13 contract with the school authorities who have acquired exclusive use of the bus at a
14 fixed charge in order to provide transportation for a group of pupils to a special
15 school related event; and

16 d) *Seats Belts* refer to the combined lap belt and shoulder strap that
17 fasten a rider to moving vehicle and prevent the rider from being thrown out or
18 against the interior of the vehicle during sudden stops.

19

1 Sec. 4. *Proficiency Standards for School Bus Drivers.* –

2 a) Requirement – Not later than one (1) year after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe proficiency standards
4 for school bus drivers who are required to possess a professional license to operate
5 a school bus.

6 b) Demonstration of Proficiency – Upon the prescription of standards
7 under subsection (a), each school bus driver referred to in subsection (a) shall
8 demonstrate (at such interval as the Department of Transportation shall prescribe)
9 to the employer of the driver, the school, the licensing agency, or other person or
10 agency responsible for regulating school bus drivers the proficiency of such driver in
11 operating a school bus in accordance with the proficiency standards prescribed
12 under subsection (a) or the proficiency standards established by the State
13 concerned, as the case may be.

14 Sec. 5. *Seat Belts in School Buses.* –

15 a) Requirement for Installation- Not later than one (1) year after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe
17 regulations requiring driver seat belts and passenger seat belts (including lap safety
18 belts or other child safety devices meeting applicable government safety standards)
19 for each seating position in any newly-manufactured school bus Owners of school
20 buses which are not currently equipped with seat belts shall be given a period of six
21 (6) months from the publication of the regulations of this Act to install the necessary
22 seat belts in their school buses,

23 b) Promotion of Seat Belt Usage-

24 1) In General- The Department of Transportation, in consultation with
25 appropriate safety organizations and parent-teacher organizations, shall conduct a
26 program to promote and encourage the use of seat belts in school buses.

27 2) Elements of Program- In conducting the program required under this
28 subsection, the Department of Transportation shall:

29 i. Encourage the local governments to monitor the mandatory
30 usage of seat belts in school buses;

- 1 ii. Develop and disseminate educational materials on the
2 importance of using seat belts to passengers and drivers of school buses; and
3 iii. Recognize schools that achieve a high level of seat belt usage
4 by passengers and drivers of school buses.

5 Sec. 6. *Registration.* – No school bus shall be allowed to be registered unless
6 it is equipped with the necessary seat belts.

7 Sec. 7. *Implementing Authority.* – The Department of Transportation shall be
8 primarily responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act. For this
9 purpose, the Department of Transportation, in consultation with relevant
10 government agencies and private citizens organizations and stakeholders, shall issue
11 within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act the relevant implementing
12 rules and regulations.

13 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
15 shall remain valid and subsisting.

16 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
17 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
18 to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified
19 or amended accordingly.

20 Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
21 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes
22 earlier.

Approved.