



SENATE
S. No. 940

'19 AUG 20 P2:44

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED BY: _____

AN ACT
INTEGRATING BASIC ROAD SAFETY AND COMPREHENSIVE DRIVER'S
EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION
(K TO 12) PROGRAM

Explanatory Note

Road accidents are an emerging scourge to the country. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic deaths continue to rise in the Philippines, with an estimated 12,690 deaths in 2016.¹ Vulnerable road users such as motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians compose about half of the number of road traffic deaths in the Philippines according to the WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018. Road accidents accounted for 36,100 deaths for every 100,000 population from 2008 to 2013. In fact, health officials predict that road accidents could become the leading cause of deaths in the country by 2020- surpassing diseases of the heart, diseases of the vascular system, malignant neoplasms, and pneumonia.

Road accidents carry an unseen economic burden on society. A 2005 study notes that Php3.5 million is lost *per "fatal" road accident* in terms of lost labor output, medical costs, funeral services, human costs (in terms of pain, grief and suffering) and administration costs. In addition, at least Php734,867.00 is lost per "serious" road accident and Php71,483.00 per "minor" accident.

¹ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/21/18/road-traffic-deaths-continue-to-rise-in-the-philippines-who-report>

The statistics above are extremely frustrating. Road accidents are the most preventable of all the causes of mortality as such are man-made and are within our control and/or prevention. They can easily be addressed by enforcing the law and promoting greater awareness of road safety. This bill seeks to contribute to the latter endeavor.

In sum, this bill seeks the mandatory integration of basic road safety and comprehensive driver's education in the enhanced basic education curriculum. If enacted, this measure will direct the Department of Education (DepEd), the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Transportation, the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to formulate and implement a basic road safety and comprehensive driver's education subject for students in basic and higher education.

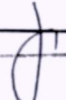
In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is eagerly sought. This bill complements this representation's Senate Bill No. 125, otherwise known as the proposed "*National Transportation Safety Board Act of 2019*".



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

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ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Road Safety and Comprehensive Driver's Education Act*".

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reduce road accidents on all types of roads used for transportation by raising the awareness of road users such as pedestrians, commuters and motorists on their rights and responsibilities and the everyday risks that they face. As such, the State shall ensure that all road users are aware of the principles of basic road safety and comprehensive driver's education.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act:

- a) *Basic road safety* refers to the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians and commuters in their use of all types of roads used for transportation in order to reduce the incidence of road accidents. It shall include, but not be limited to, road awareness, road signages, responsible commuting, and the responsibilities of pedestrians;
- b) *Comprehensive Driver's Education* refers to the rights and responsibilities of drivers in their use of on all types of roads used for transportation in order to reduce the incidence of road accidents. It shall include but not be

1 limited to basic road safety and its components, education on pertinent
2 laws and rules and regulations on driving, traffic signages, driving safety,
3 and car passenger safety;

4 c) *K to 12* refers to the enhanced basic education program created under
5 Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the "*Enhanced Basic*
6 *Education Act of 2013*".

7 ARTICLE II

8 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

9 Sec. 4. *Integration into Curriculum.* – Basic road safety and comprehensive
10 driver's education are hereby integrated into the curriculum of the K to 12 program.
11 Basic road safety shall be made part of the elementary curriculum. Comprehensive
12 driver's education shall be made part of the junior and senior high school and higher
13 education curricula.

14 Sec. 5. *Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee.* – There shall be created an ad-hoc
15 curriculum committee composed of the Secretary of the Department of Education
16 (DepEd), the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the
17 Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the executive director of the
18 Land Transportation Office (LTO), the executive director of the Land Transportation
19 Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Chairman of the Metro Manila
20 Development Authority (MMDA), or their permanent representatives. The committee
21 shall be administratively attached to the DepEd and chaired by the DepEd Secretary
22 or his permanent representative. The Committee shall conduct public hearings and
23 consult concerned stakeholders from the private and non-governmental sectors.

24 The committee shall convene within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of
25 this Act and shall have one (1) year to design the basic road safety and
26 comprehensive driver's education program and its components. Thereafter, the
27 Committee shall be *functus officio* and the member agencies shall ensure the full
28 and continuing implementation of this Act.

29 ARTICLE III

30 FINAL PROVISIONS

31 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for the purpose of this Act shall
32 be indicated as a line item under the budget of the DepEd under the General

1 Appropriations Act. Appropriations for the implementation of this Act shall be
2 sourced from the Special Road Safety Fund as created under Republic Act No. 8794.

3 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, CHED, DOTr,
4 LTO, LTFRB, and MMDA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
5 implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

6 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
7 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
8 repealed or modified accordingly.

9 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
11 provisions hereof.

12 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
13 its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,