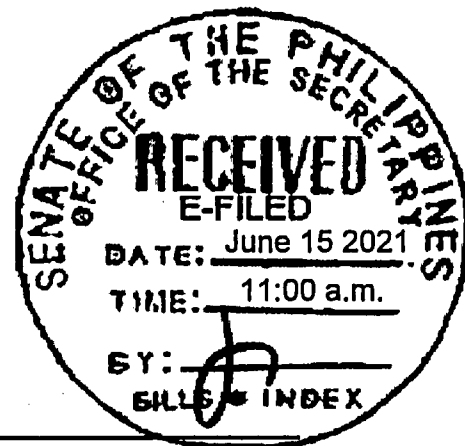


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S. NO. 2293



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION,
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES**

Explanatory Note

In 1973, the government ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals with the end goal of harmonizing our traffic signs and symbols with the international community as well as propelling the government's campaign for road safety.¹

Many years after the convention, however, road crashes are still prevalent in the country, claiming thousands of lives every year. In 2016, the World Health Organization estimated that around 12,690 individuals lost their lives due to road crashes—at least 12 deaths per 100,000 individuals.² 77% of road crash fatalities and injuries are also within the economically productive age group³, which have cost our country a considerable amount in terms productivity and potential contribution.

In 2019, the MMDA registered a total of 121,771 cases of road crash in Metro Manila, 372 of which were fatal.⁴ This means that in that single year, there were at least 334 cases of road crashes per day, and at least 1 fatal road crash per day.⁵ In 2020, MMDA was able to register only 65,032 cases of road crashes in Metro Manila, with around

¹ Presidential Decree No. 207 (1973).

² Global Road Safety Facility. (n.d.) *Philippines: Philippines's Road Safety Country Profile*. (Accessed from: <https://www.roadssafetyfacility.org/country/philippines>)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Metro Manila Development Authority. (2019). *MMDA-TEC-ROAD SAFETY UNIT: MMARAS Annual Report 2019*. (Accessed from: https://mmda.gov.ph/images/Home/FOI/MMARAS/MMARAS_Annual_Report_2019.pdf)

⁵ Metro Manila Development Authority. (2019). *MMDA-TEC-ROAD SAFETY UNIT: MMARAS Annual Report 2019*. (Accessed from: https://mmda.gov.ph/images/Home/FOI/MMARAS/MMARAS_Annual_Report_2019.pdf)

337 fatal crashes.⁶ This decrease in incidents may be attributed to the lockdowns implemented in light of the pandemic.

There are of course a multitude of factors that contribute to these statistics, but one identified factor is the faulty road signs installed throughout the streets and highways of the country. Articles and images of faulty or questionable signages have been reported throughout the years⁷, and it still remains as an evident threat to both motorists and pedestrians. Hence, this bill.

The present bill aims to improve the public safety signages in the country by mandating enforcement entities such as DPWH, MMDA, and various LGUs to construct, install and maintain signs that are in accordance with both local and international standards on public safety signages, with corresponding penalties for failure to do so. Additionally, signages for geologic hazards are likewise required to be placed at corresponding danger areas as a way of promptly warning those passing by.

Along with other measures, this bill will help guide motorists as they traverse the roads and will hopefully lead to safer roads and less lives lost.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is urgently sought.

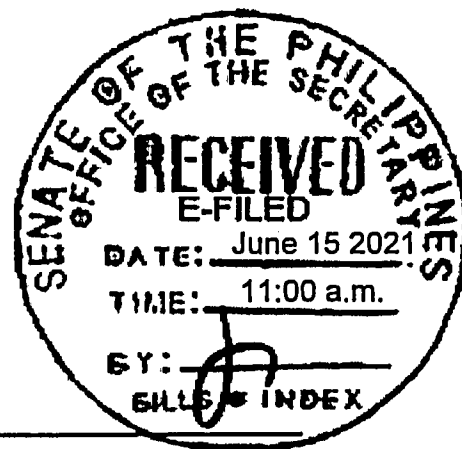

GRACE POE

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Rappler. (2018, January 11). *[Right of Way] The Fault in Our Signs, Part 1* [video]. YouTube. (Accessed from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5njD3qAaa44>); Consunji, Robby. (2018, August 18). *How to Contest a Violation Because of a Hidden 'No Entry' Sign*. TopGear Philippines. (Accessed from: <https://www.topgear.com.ph/features/feature-articles/philippine-street-sign-standards-a50-20180818>); Imperial, Maria Feona. (2018, April 26). *Vera Files at 10: Inadequate Road Signs, 'Speeding' Driver Factors in Tanay Crash*. Vera Files. (Accessed from: <https://verafiles.org/articles/inadequate-road-signs-speeding-driver-factors-tanay-crash>).

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
S. NO. 2293



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION,
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES**

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 "*Public Safety Signages*
2 *Accountability Act.*"

3 **Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the declared policy of the State to
4 safeguard the life, health, property, and the general welfare of the people. Towards this
5 end, the State shall provide the people with appropriate information through the
6 construction, installation, and maintenance of accident-prevention or risk-reduction
7 signages in areas identified as potential risks or dangers.

8 **Section 3. *Public Safety Signages.*** – Consistent with the above policy, the
9 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila
10 Development Authority (MMDA) and the local government units (LGUs), shall undertake
11 the construction, installation, and maintenance of public safety signages. They shall
12 ensure that these signages conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this
13 Act and are strategically located, clear, visible and properly maintained.

14 For purposes of this Act, *public safety signages* refer to regulatory signs, warning
15 signs, guide or informative signs, signs for expressways, signs for special purposes or
16 traffic instruction signs, hazard markers, road works signs, warning signages in areas
17 vulnerable to landslides, floods, storm surge, and other hazards, as well as other risk

1 reduction signages that are officially designed or erected by the national government,
2 local government, or other pertinent government agencies pursuant to any government
3 project or campaign and for the purpose of public safety.

4 **Section 4. *Public Safety Signages Standard.*** – All public safety signages shall
5 conform to the standard specifications prescribed under Presidential Decree No. 1096,
6 otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines”, DPWH Road Signs
7 and Pavement Markings Manual, the Outdoor Landslide Warning Signage of the
8 Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geo Sciences Bureau
9 (DENR-MGB), the pertinent provisions of the 1968 Vienna on Road Signs and Signals, and
10 other relevant laws and issuances from government agencies.

11 **Section 5. *Public Safety Signages on Geologic Hazards.*** – The DENR-MGB,
12 in coordination with other pertinent government agencies, shall update the geohazard
13 map and identify areas that are susceptible or prone to various geologic hazards such as
14 floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other similar calamities.
15 It shall then coordinate with the affected city and municipal engineers, DPWH, and MMDA
16 for the proper installment of public safety signages on geologic hazards. These signages
17 shall conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this Act and are
18 strategically located, clear, visible, and properly maintained.

19 **Section 6. *Officers in Charge for Road and Traffic Public Safety Signages.***
20 –The DPWH through its respective District Engineers in case of national roads, the MMDA
21 through the Director of the Traffic Engineering Center in case of national roads in Metro
22 Manila, and the LGUs through the City or Municipal engineers in case of local roads shall
23 be responsible for the duties and responsibilities mentioned under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of
24 this Act.

25 **Section 7. *Administrative Penalties.*** – In case an injury or death occurs due
26 to: (a) lack of an installation of public safety signages despite being identified as areas of
27 potential risk or danger by the DENR-MGB; (b) construction of public safety signages
28 contrary to the standards provided under Section 4 of this Act; or (c) lack or poor
29 maintenance of public safety signages; the DPWH district engineer involved, the MMDA
30 Director of the Traffic Engineering Center, or the City or Municipal Engineer shall, after

1 due notice and hearing, suffer the administrative penalty of suspension of one (1) month
2 and one (1) day to three (3) months, for the first offense; three (3) months and one (1)
3 day to six (6) months, for the second offense; six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1)
4 year, for the third offense; and dismissal from service, for the fourth offense.

5 **Section 8. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
6 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agency or
7 city or municipality. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for continued
8 implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the concerned agency or city
9 or municipality.

10 **Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days
11 from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in
12 coordination with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways and the Secretary of
13 Environment and Natural Resources, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
14 implementing the provisions of this Act.

15 **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, or rules and
16 regulations which are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby
17 amended or repealed accordingly.

18 **Section 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
19 after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,