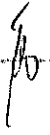


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 241

INTRO. VED BY: 

Introduced by Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF SUB-STANDARD MOTORCYCLE HELMETS WHICH LEADS TO SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES, DISABILITIES AND DEATH TO MANY MOTORCYCLE DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS IN THE EVENT OF ROAD ACCIDENTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING STRICT REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN THE MANDATORY USE OF INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED MOTORCYCLE HELMETS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is the primary duty of the State, as it is its mandate to protect and promote the well being of its citizens;

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2007, the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to the Philippines stated that road traffic crashes are the second leading causes of injury and death for all ages in the Philippines. The WHO added that since road traffic crashes are avoidable accidents, the number of deaths, injuries and disabilities caused by road accidents can be reduced through proactive and preventive policies and regulations;

WHEREAS, data from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) as of 2006 indicate that motorcycles are the third most registered vehicles in the Philippines next to cars and commercial vehicles and that motorcycle accidents are the leading causes of road fatalities in the country in recent years. With 3.5 million registered motorcycles on the streets, it is an absolute necessity that motorcycle riders be mandated to observe proper road safety measures such as wearing the prescribed helmets;

WHEREAS, data from the Traffic Management Group (TMG) indicate that motorcycles have the highest fatality accident rate in the country with 122 motorcycles involved, or 23.60 percent of the total fatal accidents, followed by cars with 113 or 21.86 percent from January to December 2006;

WHEREAS, data from the Traffic Management Group (TMG) further show that out of the total 14,202 traffic accidents that occurred in 2004, around 3,010 or 21 percent involved motorcycles. This figure increased the following year to 24 percent or 2,798 out of 11,425 accidents. In the first two months of 2006 alone, Traffic Management Group recorded 485 motorcycle accidents or 35 percent of the total of 1,364 road accidents;

WHEREAS, the WHO has indicated that the wearing of proper helmet is the most effective way to reduce head injuries and fatalities from motorcycle crashes.

Studies indicate that wearing a motorcycle helmet when on the road reduces the risk of death by almost 40% and the risk of severe injury by 70%;

WHEREAS, this policy issue is not just about motorcycle drivers not wearing the prescribed helmets while riding their motorcycles on the road but motorcycle drivers and passengers wearing sub-standard helmets which give them the illusion and false hope that said head gear is sufficient to protect them in times of motorcycle road accidents;

WHEREAS, there is also a need for Congress to study the viability of mandating the use of complete motorcycle gear for all motorcycle users, not just the usage of a helmet, but accessories that completely protect the body such as full body suits or spine protectors;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the implementing agencies of our government to ensure that the motorcycle helmets sold in the market comply with internationally accepted standards to ensure the protection of the millions of motorcycle users in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the proliferation of sub-standard motorcycle helmets which leads to serious head injuries, disabilities and death to many motorcycle drivers and passengers in the event of road accidents, with the end in view of providing strict regulation and enforcement in the mandatory use of internationally-accepted motorcycle helmets in order to protect the lives and welfare of the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator