

SENATE

S. No. 248

REGISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The general welfare of the public, specifically the commuters, should be at all times protected from the dangers brought about by other moving vehicles or carriages that are not easily seen in the street.

In 2008, reports have shown that road accidents are becoming the fourth leading killer in the Philippines¹. Road accidents, especially those involving public utility vehicles, figure highly in the national accident statistics.

Informal transport modes such as *karitons*, fishball carts, power hand tractor (*kuliglig*) with trailer, and horse carriages also contribute to these road accidents for the reason that they do not have headlights or backlights, rendering them inconspicuous in roads. The *kuliglig* in particular, has been one of the major culprits in rural accidents – causing fatalities to pedestrians and public transport users. From May to November 2007, reports have shown that *kuliglig*-related accidents in Pangasinan alone resulted to the death of seven people and more than sixty injured persons.

It may be true that accidents are part of our lives. However, there will always be a way to prevent these accidents from occurring. It is high time that we put a greater emphasis on improving road safety, particularly in the implementation of an effective road safety program.

This bill seeks to put an end to the numerous deaths and accidents, most especially during nighttime, caused by the informal transport modes traversing the roads. This bill distinctively requires the said vehicles traversing main and secondary roads to use reflectors. To further achieve the objectives of this measure, concerned government agencies shall be mandated to provide programs to educate the general public concerning the same matter.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ www.philstar.com on 27 April 2009.

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S. No. 248

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE CERTAIN VEHICLES/CARRIAGES TRAVERSING MAIN AND
SECONDARY ROADS TO USE REFLECTORS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act may be cited as the “*Reflectorized Vehicles and*
2 *Carriages Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
5 the general welfare of the public, specifically the commuters, and protect them from the dangers
6 brought about by other moving vehicles or carriages that are not easily seen in the street. It is
7 also the policy of the State to implement measures that aim to achieve road safety and provide
8 programs to educate the general public concerning the same matter.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
11 defined as follows:

- 12 a) carriage/vehicle – means any moving improvised wheeled-vehicle or carriage:
- 13 1) which crosses the main and secondary roads;
 - 14 2) including, but not limited to: *karitons*, fishball carts, hand tractor or the power
15 hand tractor (*kuliglig*) with trailer, and horse carriages;
 - 16 3) that do not have headlights or backlights, conspicuous in the streets or roads;
 - 17 and

- 1 4) other similar informal transport modes;
- 2 b) Department – means the Department of Transportation and Communications
- 3 (DOTC);
- 4 c) informal transport mode – means any vehicle not governed by the laws regarding land
- 5 transportation and traffic code in the country and is not issued permit to operate on
- 6 public roads;
- 7 d) kuliglig – means:
- 8 1) a two-wheeled trailer pulled by a two-wheeled tractor;
- 9 2) a multi-purpose diesel or gasoline engine commonly used in provinces and
- 10 other rural areas in the country;
- 11 3) an informal and improvised transport mode commonly used by farmers to
- 12 carry their produce from the field to the market, and also sometimes loaded
- 13 with passengers;
- 14 e) reflectors – means any material or sticker that reflects and can be easily visible
- 15 especially at night.
- 16

17 **SEC. 4. *Mandatory Use of Reflectors on Carriages.*** – All vehicles/carriages covered

18 within this Act shall use such reflectors as herein mandated. Otherwise, they shall be absolutely

19 prohibited from traversing all main and secondary roads of the country.

20 Within ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department, in

21 coordination with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), local government units, and other

22 concerned agencies, shall issue the necessary guidelines and requirements for the mandatory use

23 of reflectors on carriages crossing the main and secondary roads nationwide.

24

25 **SEC. 5. *Information, Education and Communication Campaign.*** - The Department, in

26 cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby mandated to conduct a

27 comprehensive and nationwide information, education and communication campaign in order to

28 inform the general public of the purpose and objectives envisioned under this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. Penalties.** – Violation of the provisions of this Act shall be subject to
2 impounding of the carriage/vehicle involved. If violation of this Act results to any accident, the
3 owner, possessor and/or operator thereof at the time of the accident shall be subject to a fine of
4 not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) but not more than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos
5 (P200,000) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than four (4) years or
6 both, at the discretion of the court.

7
8 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be found to
9 be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration shall
10 remain in full force and effect.

11
12 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with the
13 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14
15 **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
16 its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,