

SENATE

S. NO. 378

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the Seatbelts Use Act of 1999 by requiring all passengers and drivers of school services such as school buses to use their seatbelts.

Crash test and case study data indicate that seat belts provide improved crash protection and are especially beneficial in side-impact and rollover school bus accidents. Seat belts also reduce other types of injuries by restraining children who may otherwise be out of their seats. This also helps improve passenger behavior and reduce distractions to school bus drivers. In addition, seat belts provide another important benefit, namely, educating children as to seat belt use and reinforcing seat belt use in motor vehicles.<sup>1</sup>

Although school services accidents are relatively rare in the country, when they do occur, innocent children wind up as casualties, and the whole community is affected. It is therefore imperative to promote the safety of our children by providing standards in their public transportation.

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

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES  
Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations from Governor's Study Group on School Bus Seat Belts. <http://ftp.alsde.edu/documents/63/Report%20From%20Governors%20Study%20Group%20On%20School%20Bus%20Seat%20Belts%202-28-07.pdf>. Information retrieved on 10 July 2008.

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SENATE

S. NO. 378

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes

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AN ACT  
REQUIRING THE USE OF SEATBELT DEVICES IN SCHOOL SERVICES,  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 8750,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SEATBELTS USE ACT OF 1999

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the  
2 Seatbelts Use Act of 1999 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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4           **SECTION 4. *Mandatory Use of Seat Belts.*** – For their own safety, the  
5 driver and front seat passengers of a public or private motor vehicle are required  
6 to wear or use their seat belt devices while inside a vehicle of running engine on  
7 any road or thoroughfare: Provided, That for private vehicles, except for jeepneys,  
8 vans, buses and such other private vehicles as may be determined in the  
9 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), front and back seat passengers are  
10 likewise required to use their seat belt devices at all times.

11           In the case of public motor vehicles, the driver shall be required to immediately  
12 inform and require the front seat passengers upon boarding a vehicle of running  
13 engine to wear the prescribed seat belts. Any passenger who refuses to wear seat  
14 belts shall not be allowed to continue his/her trip.

15           For special public service vehicles [such as school services and other similar  
16 vehicles], **EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL SERVICES**, as may be determined by the  
17 IRR, seat belt devices should be provided and used by both drivers and front seat

1 passengers as defined herein and the first row passengers immediately behind the  
2 driver at all times while inside a vehicle of running engine.

3 Operational motor vehicles, both public and private, which are not equipped with  
4 the required seat belt devices, are given one (1) year from the issuance of the IRR  
5 by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to retrofit appropriate seat belt devices  
6 in their vehicles.

7 **SEC 2.** Another section is to be added after Section 4 to read as follows:

8  
9 **SECTION. 5. SEATBELTS IN SCHOOL SERVICES.** – FOR  
10 SCHOOL SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL BUSES, SEAT BELT DEVICES  
11 SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND USED BY BOTH DRIVERS AND ALL  
12 PASSENGERS AT ALL TIMES WHILE INSIDE SUCH VEHICLE OF  
13 RUNNING ENGINE.

14 ALL SCHOOL BUSES PURCHASED BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
15 SCHOOLS SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH SEATBELT DEVICES IN  
16 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE INDUSTRY STANDARDS.

17 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT RELEVANT  
18 PROGRAMS AND RULES:

- 19 1. REQUIRING THE USE OF SEAT BELT DEVICES BY PUPILS BETWEEN  
20 THE AGES OF FOUR AND TWELVE ON SCHOOL SERVICES SUCH AS  
21 SCHOOL BUSES;
- 22 2. PROVIDING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE FOR ANY PUPIL WHO FAILS  
23 TO COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION AND ANY RULE ADOPTED  
24 REGARDING THE USE OF SEAT BELT DEVICES ON SCHOOL  
25 SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL BUSES;
- 26 3. ENCOURAGING PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY  
27 ASSOCIATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EDUCATION OF  
28 STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF USING SEATBELT DEVICES.

1           **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
3 remain valid and subsisting.

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5           **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise  
6 known as the Seatbelts Use Act of 1999, and all laws, presidential decrees or issuances,  
7 executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary  
8 to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, or  
9 amended accordingly.

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11           **SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
13 circulation.

Approved,