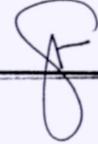


SENATE

'19 JUL 16 A11:52

Senate Bill No. 547

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING ROAD SAFETY CURRICULUM, CAMPAIGN AND TRAINING,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road traffic accidents claim about 10,000 lives every year in the Philippines—in 2016, there were about 12,960 road-related deaths in the country, per a report from the World Health Organization. The following year, the Philippine Statistics Authority reinforced the veracity of the WHO's numbers, estimating that about thirty-four Filipinos die from road accidents every day. This is not the nation's leading cause of death, not with health complications still in the lead, but these statistics are deeply concerning because, unlike fatal diseases or natural disasters, vehicular accidents are largely preventable. The nation's vehicular fatalities statistics are a reflection of its mismanaged traffic systems, its poor infrastructures, and its ineffective road safety education.

Most of these road casualties happen to the younger demographic. Per the WHO, people in the fifteen to nineteen age bracket are the most vulnerable to road traffic fatalities. Locally, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority reports that road traffic accidents largely affect the eighteen to thirty-four bracket. These casualties count both drivers and collateral victims, such as unsupervised children playing on streets.

It is reasonable, then, to institute a national road safety education program beginning with the youth. This bill seeks to integrate basic road safety education to the elementary education curriculum and drivers education to the junior and senior high curriculum, ensuring that Filipinos are primed to be responsible, vigilant pedestrians—and later on, drivers—from a young age.

Along with a school-based road safety education program, this bill shall see to the development of a Road Safety Training for Traffic Enforcers Program, which will guarantee that the nation's roads will be under the reliable protection of highly trained enforcers delivering quality public service.

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



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** — This Act shall be known as the "Road Safety
2 Education Act of 2019."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy**— It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the well-being and health of the people. It is also the policy of the
5 State to promote awareness and instill consciousness among all Filipinos on the
6 importance of road safety. Towards this end, the State shall educate the general public,
7 especially the youth, on pertinent road safety standards, regulations and laws in order to
8 promote compliance and prevent the occurrence of motor vehicle road accidents.

9 **SEC. 3. Compulsory Teaching of Road Safety and Drivers' Education in
10 All Primary and Secondary Schools, and Educational Institutions.** — Basic Road
11 Safety and Comprehensive Drivers' Education shall be taught in all primary and secondary
12 schools and educational institutions, both public and private. Basic Road Safety shall be
13 integrated in the elementary education curriculum. Comprehensive drivers' education
14 shall be incorporated in the junior and senior high school curricula.

15 Incorporation of Basic Road Safety Comprehensive Drivers' Education in school
16 curricula shall be implemented on the next academic year following the passage of this
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 4. Road Safety Curriculum** — The Department of Education (DepEd), in
19 coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), University of the Philippines
20 National Center for Transportation Studies (UP-NCTS) and in consultation with road safety
21 advocates and organizations, shall develop a Basic Road Safety Curriculum conducive for
22 elementary school students which shall include, but not be limited to, the rights and

1 responsibilities of pedestrians and commuters in their use of all types of road
2 transportation, road awareness, road signage, and responsible commuting.

3 The aforementioned agencies and organizations shall, in the same manner,
4 develop a Comprehensive Drivers' Education appropriate for junior and senior school
5 students which shall include, but not be limited to, driving rules and regulations, driving
6 courtesy, driving safety, road hazards, and vehicle safety features.

7 Supplementary topics related to road safety issues and drivers' education may be
8 added periodically to further enhance the awareness and knowledge of the students.

9 **SEC. 5. Educational Materials** — The DepEd Shall consult and coordinate with
10 the DOTr, UP-NCTS and road safety advocates and organizations in the writing, printing,
11 and publication of textbooks, manuals and other educational materials to be used in the
12 Road Safety and Drivers' Education subjects.

13 It shall be mandatory for all primary and secondary schools and educational
14 institutions to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of textbooks and
15 other educational materials on Road Safety and Drivers' Education to be issued by the
16 DepEd.

17 The DepEd shall, in every school year, determine the adequacy of the number of
18 books, depending upon the enrollment in the secondary school or institution.

19 **SEC. 6. Public Road Safety Information Campaign** — The DOTr, UP-NCTS in
20 coordination with other government agencies, road safety advocates and organizations,
21 shall establish a road safety information, education and communication campaign to
22 educate the general public and pedestrians, and increase awareness among motor vehicle
23 drivers on proper road courtesy and road safety regulations.

24 The DOTr shall develop a Road Safety manual which shall, at all times, be
25 accessible through the DOTr website.

26 **SEC. 7. Road Safety Training for Traffic Enforcers** — The DOTr through the
27 Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall develop and conduct a Road Safety Training
28 Program for Traffic Enforcers to educate traffic enforcers in matters relating to road
29 safety, such as but not limited to traffic violations and procedures in apprehensions.

30 The LTO shall coordinate with other government agencies, local government units
31 and road safety advocates and organizations in the conduct of the training of traffic
32 enforcers.

33 All traffic enforcers shall undergo the Road Safety Training during the first year of
34 the implementation of this Act and every two years thereafter.

35 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations** — Within thirty (30) days from
36 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, DOTr and the Land Transportation Office (LTO), in

1 consultation with other road safety advocates and organizations, shall promulgate the
2 necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

3 **SEC. 9. Appropriations** — The funds needed for the purpose of this Act shall be
4 indicated as line item under the budget of the appropriate agencies under the General
5 Appropriations Act.

6 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause** — If any provision or part of this Act shall be
7 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
8 remain in full force and effect.

9 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,
10 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
11 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,