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SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING*

First Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

S. NO 1077 AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.

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Referred to: Committees on Public Service; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Key words: NTSB, pipelines and conveyors, transport safety, hazardous and toxic materials, aircraft, motor vehicle, railroad, pipeline, maritime, aerial accidents investigation and hearings, transportation safety fund

This bill proposes the creation of a National Transport Safety Board (NTSB) consisting of seven (7) full-time members, headed by the Chairman with fixed terms of office, appointed by the President. The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board. The members of the Board must represent each of the transportation sectors (land, rail, air, and sea); and at least two (2) of the full-time members must come from the commuting public representing organizations advocating for road safety. The Board shall have an Executive Director who will be appointed by the Chairman.

The overall policy in the creation of the NTSB is to promote safety in the transport of people and goods to prevent, remedy, or mitigate accidents involving any mode of transport, including those that involve the use of pipelines and conveyors.

In this regard, the NTSB is authorized to do any of the following, among others:

- I. Conduct independent investigations on:
 1. Aircraft accidents and serious incidents, except those involving State aircrafts;

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2. Motor vehicles crashes;
 3. Railroad incidents and accidents;
 4. Pipeline incident
 5. Major maritime transportation and aerial accidents or incidents occurring within Philippine maritime jurisdiction, except those involving domestic and foreign military vessels and ships, occurring within the Philippine National Territory
 6. Other incidents which are catastrophic and a recurring character.
- II. Support safety programs;
 - III. Review operating practices and operational regulations of government agencies regarding the transportation sector relative to safety measures, and formulate additional safety standards consistent with international best practices.
 - IV. Establish and maintain such capabilities as may be needed to investigate and report on the safe transportation of hazardous and toxic materials.

The Board shall submit a report to Congress and the President, within sixty (60) days from the completion of the Board's investigation on each incident.

However, said report shall not be admitted as evidence or used in any suit or action for damages, except when the criminal aspect of the accident or incident is put into issue.

A Transportation Safety Fund shall be created from the Board's savings to be deposited in a special trust fund administered by the Board. The Fund shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

1. Operational expenses in investigating major accidents;
2. Studies and research in the causes and possible prevention of accidents and other disasters;
3. Reimbursement of extraordinary expenditures and expenses of government and private agencies and/or persons mobilized by the Board in investigating major accidents; and
4. Training and related conferences to further and enhance the expertise of the officers and employees of the Board.

For the initial organization and operations of the Board, the sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from the National Treasury.

(Summary prepared by: Elvie F. Isleta)

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