

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
3920
House Bill No: _____



Introduced by REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill mandates the Department of Education to include in the curricula of elementary and senior high school a subject on road safety and traffic education.

Today, road traffic injuries is categorized as the eighth leading cause of death globally. The World health Organization (WHO), in its Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015, estimated a worldwide average of 1.25 million road traffic deaths annually from 2007 to 2013. The report also stated that if no action is taken, road traffic injuries will be the seventh leading cause of death by 2030.

In the Philippines, the increasing number of traffic accidents can be attributed mainly to ignorance and flagrant disregard of laws on road safety. Data on the attempts to curb traffic law violations have been dauntingly ineffective. In the aforesighted Global Status Report, the WHO also stated that the Philippines got a 5 out of 10 rating in the implementation of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the "Seat Belts Use Act of 1999," a 6 out of 10 rating in the implementation of Republic Act No. 10054, otherwise known as the "Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009, and a dismal 1 out of 10 rating in the implementation of Republic Act No. 10856, otherwise known as the "Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013." The WHO report also pointed out that the Philippines still lacks a law banning the use of mobile phones and other gadgets while driving.

Education is an integral part of solving the stark disregard of road safety and traffic rules and regulations. If the government is bent on curbing the problems on road safety and ignorance of traffic rules and regulations plaguing the country, one of the major keys toward this goal is to change the mindset of the students by educating them and inculcate in their young minds the importance of road safety, the proper use of roads, the different laws on driving and other measures that ensure safe road travel. Thus, this bill aims to integrate a separate subject to be called Road Safety and Traffic Education in the curricula of the elementary and senior high school students.

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


MERCEDES C. CAGAS

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AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULA OF ELEMENTARY AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL A SUBJECT ON ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC EDUCATION

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

SECTION 1. Short Title – this Act shall be known as the “Student’s Road Safety and Traffic Education Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and ensure the safety of road users and instill in them the importance of road safety and traffic laws at an early age. As the principal institutional mechanism for imparting knowledge is education, it is imperative to include a subject on road safety and traffic education in the curricula of elementary and senior high school.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms – As used in this Act:

- a) *Elementary* refers to the level of students enrolled in Grades 1 to 6;
- b) *Senior high school* refers to the level of students enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 under Republic Act (RA) No. 10533, otherwise known as the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”;
- c) *Road Safety* refers to the methods and measures that are issued and implemented to reduce the risk of injury, death and harm to drivers, passengers and pedestrians and other road users.

SECTION 4. Road Safety and Traffic Education Subject – A new subject called “Road Safety and Traffic Education” is hereby included in the curricula of elementary and senior high school students. The new subject is divided into basic and advanced modules for elementary and senior high school students, respectively. The modules shall include the following:

a) Basic module

1. Observance of road signs and signals by pedestrians, drivers and passengers of the different modes of land transport;
2. Observance of railroad signs, signals and the stop, look and listen rule;
3. Use of pedestrian crossings and walkways, bicycle and motor vehicle lanes, points of embarkation and disembarkation, sidewalks and overpasses;
4. Use of helmets and seatbelts;
5. Anti-drunk and drugged driving;
6. Hazards on the road; and
7. Traffic accidents and its consequences.

a) Advanced module

1. Overview of the basic module;
2. Rights and responsibilities of driver, vehicle owner, operator of public utility vehicles and commuters;
3. Introduction to the organizational set-up and functions of the Land Transportation Office ad other land transport-related institutions;
4. Basic knowledge of RA 10666, otherwise known as the "*Children's Safety on Motorcycle Act of 2015*" which makes it unlawful for any person to drive a two-wheeled motorcycle with a child on board on public roads where there is heavy volume of vehicles, there is a high density of fast moving vehicles or where a speed limit of not more than 60 kilometer per hour is imposed;
5. Basic knowledge of RA 10586, otherwise known as the "*Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013*" which penalizes persons driving under the influence of alcohol, dangerous drugs and similar substances;
6. Basic knowledge of RA 10054, otherwise known as the "*Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009*" that mandates all motorcycle riders to wear standard protective helmets while driving;
7. Basic knowledge of RA 8750, otherwise known as the "*Seat Belts Use Act of 1999*" that requires the mandatory compliance by motorists of private and public vehicles to use sat belt devices, and requiring vehicle manufacturers to install seat belt devices in all their manufactured vehicles; and
8. Other existing laws or ordinances and other related topics on road safety and traffic management including those which prohibit drivers from using mobile phones and other gadgets while driving a motor vehicle, agricultural machinery, a construction vehicle and other forms of transportation such as bicycles, pedicabs, trolleys, habal-habal, kuliglig as well as human and animal-powered carriages.

SEC. 5. Teaching Modules – The scope of the teaching modules for each grade level shall be identified by the Department of Education (DepEd), taking into consideration the age and the level of comprehension of the students.

The UP- National Center for Transportation Studies Foundation, Inc. shall assist the DepEd in designing the teaching modules on road safety and traffic education.

SEC. 6. Education Materials – all grade schools and high schools shall keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbook, primer and leaflet on road safety and traffic education prescribed by the DepEd. The adequacy of the number of books shall also be determined by the DepEd.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this act, the Department of Education shall, in coordination with the Land Transportation Office, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,