Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No.



Introduced by

ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

AN ACT

MANDATING A MINIMUM DISTANCE FOR OVERTAKING OF CYCLISTS BY MOTOR VEHICLES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cycling or biking plays an important role for transportation, recreation, and sports. It offers a healthy, environmentally friendly mode of transportation for commuters and plays an integral part in any holistic approach to the problem of traffic congestion in highly urbanized areas.

However, due to the absence of cycling-friendly infrastructure throughout the country, cyclists are forced to journey side by side with motor vehicles, exposing them daily to the risk of serious or fatal accidents. According to the Metro Manila Development Authority-Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System, involved more than 900 persons—or nearly three cyclsits and other road users per day—were reported to have been involved in accidents in Metro Manila in in 2015.

One way to protect cyclists and encourage more people to take up cycling, whether for commuting, exercise, or leisure, is through the enactment of cycling safety laws or regulations, Other countries have had positive experiences with the introduction of mandated minimum overtaking distance, encouraging drivers to "stay wider of the rider."

This bill seeks to make cycling safer throughout the country by mandating a minimum distance of 1.5 meters for overtaking of cyclists by motor vehicles.

This was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading during the 17th Congress.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought. Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FERDINAND GAITE BAYAN MUNA Party-List BAYAN MUNA Party-List Bulanot Rep. ÉUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT Kep. ARLENE D. BROSAS BAYAN MUNA Party-List GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. SAKAN JANE I. ELAGO KABATAAN Party-List

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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 "The Minimum Overtaking of Cyclists Distance Act."

SECTION 2. *Minimum Safe Overtaking Distance.* – The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking and passing a bicycle that is travelling in the same direction as the driver shall maintain a minimum overtaking distance of one and a half meters (1.5m) between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its cyclist.

SECTION 3. Enforcement and Assistance by Other Agencies. – The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine National Police (PNP), local government units, and other concerned government agencies and instrumentalities shall be responsible for the enforcement of the foregoing provisions and shall render such assistance as may be required by the Department of Transportation-Land Transportation Office-Land Transportation Office (DOTr-LTO), the lead agency, in order to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – Any person who shall violate Section 2 of this Act shall be penalized with:

- (a) A fine of Five thousand pesos (P5.000.00) for the first offense;
- (b) A fine of Ten thousand pesos (PIO.OOO.OO) for the second offense:
- (c) A fine of Fifteen thousand pesos (PI5,000.00) and suspension of driver's license for three (3) months for the third offense; and
- (d) A fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and revocation of driver's license for the fourth offense:

Provided, That the DOTr-LTO may increase the amount of fine herein imposed once every five (5) years in the amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the existing rates which shall take effect only upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

The foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law, arising out or occasioned by any violation of Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Nationwide Public Information Campaign.* – The DOTr-LTO, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Department of Education, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, MMDA, PNP and private agencies and organizations shall undertake a nationwide information, education and communication campaign for a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOTr-LTO shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid, such declaration shall not affect the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,