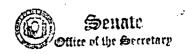
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE	
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	;
First Regular Session	;
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SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 101

Re: Senate No. <u>1582</u> Prepared by the Committees

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1518, taking into consideration P.S. Res. No. 411.

Sponsor: Sen. Pia S. Cayetano

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; Public Works and Finance, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 1518**, introduced by Sen. Cayetano, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF POP-UP BICYCLE LANES AND EMERGENCY PATHWAYS FOR USE DURING THE DURATION OF THE PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

taking into consideration **P.S. Res. No. 411**, introduced by Senator Tolentino, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS IN COORDINATION WITH THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE, DEVELOP, AND IMPROVE BICYCLE LANES IN METRO MANILA FOR THE DURATION OF THE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE"

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate No. 1582** prepared by the Committees, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF POP-UP BICYCLE LANES AND EMERGENCY PATHWAYS FOR USE DURING THE DURATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1518, taking into consideration P.S. Res. 411 with Senators Cayetano, Tolentino, Pacquiao and Angara as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

CHAIRPERSONS:

PIA/S. CAYETANO

Committee on Sustainable

Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance

EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO
Committee on Public Works

SONNY ANGARACommittee on Finance

VICE CHAIRPERSONS:

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Committee on Finance

RICHARD J. GORDON

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CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE T. GO

Committee on Finance

IMEE R. MARCOS

Committee on Finance

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Committee on Finance

MEMBERS:

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

GRACE POE

RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

LEILA M. DE LIMA

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

President Pro-Tempore

HAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI Majority Leader

Hon. VICENTE C. SOTTO III

President Senate of the Philippines

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE S. No. <u>15</u>82

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Prepared by the Committees on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; Public Works; and Finance with Senators Cayetano, Tolentino, Pacquiao and Angara as authors thereof

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF POP-UP BICYCLE LANES AND EMERGENCY PATHWAYS FOR USE DURING THE DURATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Safe Pathways Act".

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution mandates the State to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, and to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Action Plan Against COVID-19 provides that the State shall mitigate the consequences and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social, economic, and personal security of the Filipino people.

The State recognizes that the current transportation system does not address the need for physical distancing.

The State likewise acknowledges the need for infrastructure and a change in mindset to encourage and accommodate alternative modes of transportation such as walking, bicycles, and other non-motorized vehicles, and to provide safe and convenient pathways for commuters, especially health workers and other frontliners, pedestrians and non-motorized travel. It also recognizes the urgency of this need

during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure physical distancing and given the limited forms of transportation available to frontliners and essential workers for so long as there is reduced mobility.

Prioritizing walking, biking, and the use of non-motorized vehicles will result in reduced carbon emissions, less use of energy and resources, and provide multiple health benefits and increase quality of life.

These are also in line with the State's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being); SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); SDG 13 (Climate Action); and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

For purposes of this Act, "Non-Motorized Vehicles" includes all forms of travel that do not rely on an engine or motor for movement. This includes, but is not limited to, walking, bicycles, and small-wheeled non-motorized transport (skates, skateboards, push scooters and hand carts).

Sec. 3. Safe Pathways Network. – Immediately upon the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and in coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs), shall identify and create a network of pop-up bicycle lanes that may be used during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pop-up bicycle lanes are strictly for bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles only, and shall, as much as practicable, directly connect users to essential destinations such as medical facilities, public and private facilities frequented by people, schools, when they open, and other similar places that may be identified. The lanes may be marked with removable tapes and mobile signs, which can easily be placed and removed as necessary. Other physical barriers may also be used. Electric scooters, electric bicycles, and other similar modes of transport may be allowed subject to the guidelines set by the DOTr and other appropriate agencies.

To complement the network of pop-up bicycle lanes, LGUs shall create a designated network of people-oriented emergency pathways along local roads that will provide pedestrians and bicycle and non-motorized vehicle users safe, convenient access to frequented destinations by restricting motorized vehicle

passage in these pathways during peak hours. The emergency pathways shall be clearly marked with signage containing restrictions. The DOTr and DPWH shall identify priority areas for implementation.

Sec. 4. *Health Facilities Loop.* – The LGUs shall coordinate with health facilities within their jurisdiction to establish pop-up bicycle lanes and emergency pathways that can connect and provide safe access for healthcare workers to hospitals and other health centers.

Sec. 5. *Obedience to Traffic Laws, Rules and Regulations.* – All non-motorized vehicle users, including users of electric scooters, electric bicycles, and other similar modes of transport as allowed by the DOTr and other appropriate agencies, shall obey existing traffic laws, rules and regulations, and shall be subject to existing penalties for violations.

The DOTr, in coordination with the Metro Manila Development Authority and other appropriate agencies, shall issue guidelines for safe biking and the use of non-motorized vehicles.

Sec. 6. *Non-Motorized Vehicle Parking Spaces.* — All public places, government offices, schools, places of work and major commercial establishments, including malls, banks, hospitals, and the like shall provide, as far as practicable, adequate parking spaces for bicycles, other non-motorized vehicles, and electric scooters, electric bicycles, and other similar modes of transport as allowed by the DOTr and other appropriate agencies.

Sec. 7. Role of the Public and Private Sectors. – Both the public and private sectors shall promote walking and using bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles as an alternative means of travel. They shall develop the necessary infrastructure, facilities and programs for its implementation, including showers, changing areas, and hydration facilities, and shall continue following physical distancing measures during travel.

Sec. 8. *Permanent Adoption of Safe Pathways Network.* – The DOTr, DPWH and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the appropriate agencies, shall prepare to permanently adopt the established bicycle lanes and emergency pathways, as may be appropriate. Pursuant to this, the LGUs shall clear all local roads and sidewalks of obstructions, and make the necessary

improvements on existing structures. All non-motorized vehicle parking spaces and other infrastructure shall also be made permanent, as may be appropriate and practicable.

Further, the DPWH shall revise its manuals and guidelines for road design and construction to include non-motorized vehicles in the allocation of road space on national and local roads, and to promote the safety of pedestrians and non-motorized vehicle users.

The LGUs shall coordinate and issue the necessary measures for the adoption and implementation of the Safe Pathways Network, in compliance with the implementing rules and regulations as provided in Section 9 of this Act.

Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr, in coordination with the DPWH, DILG, and other appropriate agencies, shall promulgate and issue the necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Sec. 10. *Appropriations.* – The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOTr and DPWH. Thereafter, funding shall be included in the budget of the DOTr and DPWH under the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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