

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2304

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all Filipino Student Drivers to undergo formal training in duly accredited driving schools before they will be issued a Non-Professional Driver's License. This will promote safe driving and enforce road rules which will benefit the entire community and make roads safer for all road users.

Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

Comprehensive education in driving should be required for all student drivers to formally give them an in-depth study of a multitude of topics to include a functional understanding of the rules of the road, right-of-way law, and the incompatibility of behaviors such as substance abuse, distracted driving, and aggressive driving or "drunk driving."

We cannot ignore the fact that several road accidents happen due to reckless driving. These accidents have been happening on a daily basis primarily due to irresponsible and unschooled drivers who were not formally trained in a legitimate driving school and only learned to drive thru their friends, relatives or neighbors. Unfortunately, these drivers become jeepney drivers or bus drivers who cater to the general public transport services and get involved with road accidents.

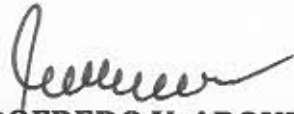
As a consequence many innocent passengers and pedestrians have lost their lives. With more than 92 million people, the Philippines is the world's 12th most populous country and it faces this growing problem on road accidents. Deaths due to road crashes reached 624 in the first half of 2009, and went up by 8.7 percent from 573 a year ago, according to the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC). This upward trend will continue unless some action is taken by the government to reduce this.

Unfortunately, the Land Transportation Office only require the submission of the following documents for a Student Driver's License, namely: a) a duly accomplished Application Form, b) Proof of identity; c) any legal or government issued document to prove his age and identity; d) a Taxpayer's Identification Number; and e) if the applicant is a minor between 16-18 years old, he is required to submit a duly notarized letter of consent from his parent or guardian.

Likewise, a Non-Professional Driver's License requires the following qualifications, namely: a) a duly accomplished application form; b) a valid student permit (at least one month old); c) a medical certificate; d) a negative Drug Test Result; e) a Valid TIN Number; and f) must have passed written and practical examinations.

It's high time that the government provide stricter measures to avoid and reduce accidents on the road. It is in this regard that the government should require a formal training for all new student drivers to properly inform them of road rules and signs, road courtesy and responsibility.

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


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List

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AN ACT REQUIRING
STUDENT DRIVERS
TO UNDERGO FORMAL TRAINING
WITH ACCREDITED DRIVING SCHOOLS

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 “*An Act Requiring Student Drivers to Undergo Formal Training with Accredited Driving Schools.*”

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

Consonant with these constitutional principle, the following are the Declared Policies of this Act:

- (a) To take cognizance of road accidents that have been increasing yearly; and
- b) To recognize the vital role of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and actively seek its partnership so it can give its full support to achieve this purpose;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

- (1) adopt measures whereby the Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall require student drivers to undergo Formal training with Accredited Driving Schools before the issuance of a Non-Professional Driver's License ; and
- (2) establish a policy or program towards the achievement of this objective.

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

- (a) "Student Drivers" shall mean those who have applied for a Student Permit with the LTO starting age 16 and upwards ;
- (b) "Land Transportation Office" shall mean the Transportation Office in the Philippines that provide transportation laws, rules and regulations;
- (c) "Accredited Driving Schools" shall mean a driving school duly licensed and accredited by the LTO to operate as a driving school within the Republic of the Philippines ;

Section 4. **Manner of Implementing .** – Every Filipino Student Driver, shall be required by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), among other things, to undergo a formal and practical training on the rules of driving in a legitimate and accredited Driving School recognized by the LTO before issuance of a Non-Professional Driver's License .

Section 5. **Duty of the Land Transportation Office (LTO)** – The LTO is directed to issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act and refuse to allow the issuance of a Non-Professional Driver's License to those who failed to submit proof of formal training on driving as required under this Act.

Section 6. **Government Assistance.** – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall implement and institute policies and programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act and shall have the following functions:

- (a) To enhance, implement and monitor yearly programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act; and

(b) To serve as a General Information and Liaison Center and monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act ;

Section 7. **LTO Responsibility.** – It shall be the responsibility of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of this Act and ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

Section 8. **Partnership of the National and Local Government Units.** – The national government and local government units shall undertake to ensure the implementation of this Act in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Section 9. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act in consultation and coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Section 10. **Appropriation.** – The necessary appropriation for the operation of this Act shall be appropriated and approved by the Land Transportation Office. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be charged out of the funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

Section 11. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List