

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9167

Introduced by **Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that more than 270,000 pedestrians die on roads each year which account for 22 percent of the 1.24 million road traffic deaths. This indicates that pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users. We are all pedestrians, and governments should put in place measures to better protect all of us. This will not only save lives, but create the conditions needed to make walking safe. When roads are safe, people will walk more, and this in turn will improve health and protect the environment.

Statistics also show that children make up a high proportion of pedestrian deaths and injuries. Because children are smaller, less visible and are often unpredictable, they are more vulnerable, than any other road user, to vehicular accidents. Drivers must therefore exercise extraordinary degree of care in school zones which are doubly dangerous to children when these schools are located along national highways. One engineering intervention that would enhance safety to pupils and students is by constructing an overpass near schools, private or public, over national roads where they cross when going and coming from the school.

Thus, it is for the above reason that the construction of overpass in all national roads or highways with schools is being earnestly sought for the safety of pedestrians, especially children, and easing traffic in major roads.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "JOEY SARTE SALCEDA".

JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

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AN ACT
TO CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS IN ALL NATIONAL ROADS WITH
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Overpass Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to afford or promote safety to pedestrians, especially the most vulnerable road users, as provided by law. The State recognizes the sanctity of life and ensures that every human being is safe and secure every minute and in every corner of the country.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. –

1. “Overpass” refers to a footbridge or similar structure that crosses over a road or national highway.
2. “National road/ Highway” referred herein as the network of roads maintained by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), classified as National primary, National secondary, and National tertiary roads under the Road Classification System.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways an overpass in every or nearby school situated along a national road or highway to allow pedestrians safe crossing over busy roads without interrupting the smooth flow of vehicle traffic.

SEC. 5. Role of Agencies. – The DPWH, with assistance from the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act to formulate a guideline, identification, and to structure a timetable to ensure the effectivity of the same.

SEC. 6. *Appropriation.* – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the budget of the DPWH under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,