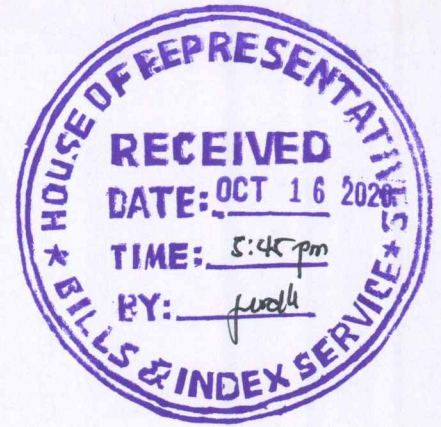


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7898



Introduced by **Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III** and **Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DRIVER'S EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEP)
THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DRIVER'S EDUCATION
CENTERS (DECs) AND ACCREDITATION OF DRIVING SCHOOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road crashes, worldwide, cause 20-50 million injuries, some leading to permanent disability. Around 1.3 people die from these road crashes annually and half of these deaths are among vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcycle users. Road crashes rank first as the cause of death and is more prevalent among children and young adults aged 5-29 years. It is also the eighth leading cause of death for all age groups surpassing HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and diarrheal diseases.

These data suggest that the world is far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.6 which aims to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road crashes. If no serious action is taken, road crashes are projected to become the fifth leading cause of death by 2030. In 2012, Youth for Road Safety (YouRS) estimated that road crash will cause around 2.4 million fatalities each year by 2030. Moreover, road crashes will cause huge economic losses not only to individuals and their families, but to nations as well.

The Philippines is not spared from this tragic phenomenon. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that 6,869 Filipinos died due to road crashes in 2006. In 2016, this number leaped to 11,292. This represents a 64% increase and an average 4.8% annual increase in road crash deaths over a ten-year period.

Consistent with the global trend, motorcycle users and pedestrians are the

top casualties of road crashes in the country. In Metro Manila alone, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported, from 2011-2017, motorcycles were involved in road crashes the most and had the highest accident fatality rate with 1,472 deaths. Pedestrians are also top casualties with 1,333 deaths.

The cost of road crashes is far from negligible. According to *ImagineLaw*, a road safety non-government organization, road crashes cost P105.7 billion annually ---with P5.7 billion spent on medical treatment and P100 billion in opportunity losses from road crashes.

To address road safety issues, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) developed the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2022, adopting a vision of zero road traffic death, with an interim target to reduce road death rate by at least 20% by 2022. The interventions are organized according to the Action Plan of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, focusing on the following pillars: (1) qualified drivers, (2) roadworthy motor vehicles; (3) traffic discipline; (4) community relations; and (5) legislative initiatives.

However, road safety programs have not attained their envisioned impact and enabled achievement of targets due to the rising population and concomitant increasing number of motor vehicle registration and driver's license applications.

This bill seeks to remedy the situation by strengthening mechanisms for better drivers' education particularly through ensuring the greater availability of and access to both public and private accredited institutions capable of providing effective and continuing drivers' education.

Under the premises, the immediate passage of this bill is strongly recommended.

HON. CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III
ABONO Party List

HON. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENT
1st District, Samar

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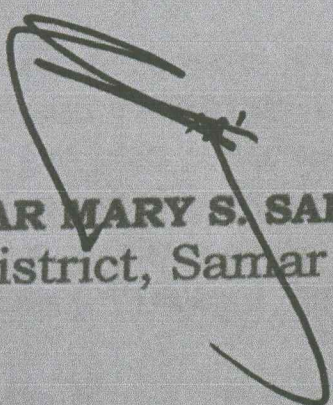
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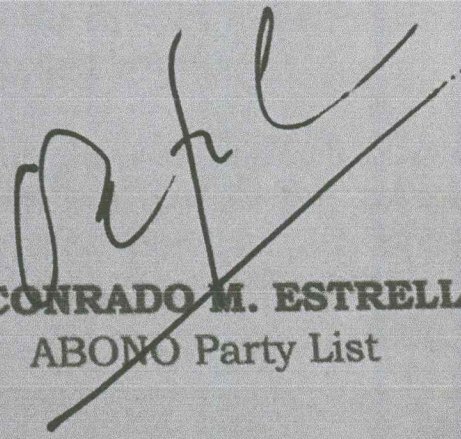
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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DRIVER'S EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEP)
THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DRIVER'S EDUCATION
CENTERS (DECs) AND ACCREDITATION OF DRIVING SCHOOLS

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. –The State shall protect and promote public safety and health by ensuring that only applicants who have undergone driver's education courses will be issued student-driver's permits and driver's licenses and by providing re-orientation courses for drivers apprehended for violations of land transportation laws, rules, and regulations.

Towards this end, the State shall accredit private driver's education institutions and establish Driver's Education Centers across the country to educate drivers and inculcate to them the basic principles of road safety.

Section 2. Definition of Terms – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined, as follows:

- a. *Accreditation* - an authority granted to driving schools that have complied with the prescribed requirements set by LTO.
- b. *Driver's Education Center (DEC)* – an educational institution controlled and supervised by the LTO to conduct driver's reorientation course for drivers involved in violations of land transportation and traffic laws,

rules, and regulations, and Comprehensive Driver's Education Course (CDEC).

- c. *Driving School* – an educational institution, accredited by LTO, which is established, organized, and authorized to engage in the business of handling complete course of instruction to student-drivers to operate motor vehicles. It may refer to the main school or any of its branches.
- d. *Driving School Instructor* – any person duly accredited by the LTO to conduct driver's education courses.
- e. *DEC Lecturer* – any LTO personnel trained and authorized to conduct CDEC and driver's re-orientation course for violators of land transportation laws, rules, and regulations.
- f. *Theoretical Driving Course (TDC)* – a 15-hour lecture-type session designed for student driver's permit applicants to be conducted by accredited driving school instructors.
- g. *Practical Driving Course (PDC)* – an 8-hour hands-on session designed for driver's license applicants to be conducted by accredited driving school instructors.
- h. *Comprehensive Driver's Education Course (CDEC)* – 16-hour lecture and hands-on session designed for applicants for driver's license renewal to be conducted by LTO DEC lecturers and accredited driving school instructors.
- i. *Re-orientation Course* – lecture type session of varying lengths designed as an intervention measure for violators of land transportation laws, rules, and regulations.
- j. *Driver* - every and any licensed operator of a motor vehicle
- k. *Student Driver* – a person enrolled in an accredited driving school undertaking prescribed courses of instruction to operate a motor vehicle.
- l. *Student-driver's Permit (SP)* – the authority valid for a period of one year embodied in a form prescribed by the LTO granted to a person who desires to learn to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a duly licensed driver possessing a driver's license with the appropriate restrictions/driver's license code/s for the type of motor vehicle to be operated by the student-driver.
- m. *Driver's License* – the authority in the form prescribed by LTO granted to a person to operate a motor vehicle that is either non-professional or professional driver's license

Section 3. Establishment of Driver's Education Centers (DECs). - The LTO shall establish at least one (1) DEC in every province which shall be under the supervision of the LTO Regional Office.

Section 4. Requirement of Theoretical and Practical Driving Course Certificates Prior to the Issuance of Driver's License. - The LTO shall require a student-driver to, in addition to other requirements prescribed by the agency, enroll in a theoretical driving course (TDC), and secure a certificate from an LTO-accredited driving school before the issuance of a student driver's permit in his favor.

Likewise, the LTO shall require a driver applying for a driver's license, in addition to other requirements prescribed by the agency, to enroll in a practical driving course (PDC), and secure a certificate from an LTO-accredited driving school before the issuance of a driver's license in his favor.

Section 5 – Requirement of Comprehensive Driver's Education Course (CDEC) prior to the Renewal of Driver's License - All driver's license shall have a validity of five (5) years. A holder of a driver's license shall undergo a CDEC on road safety and proper road courtesy to be conducted by LTO DEC or any accredited driving school upon the holder's renewal of his or her driver's license.

Section 6. Re-orientation Course for Violators of Land Transportation Laws, Rules, and Regulations - A driver who committed any violation of Republic Act 4136 and other traffic laws, rules and regulations shall, after due notice from the LTO, be required to undergo a mandatory driver's reorientation course to be conducted by a LTO DEC in addition to other penalties prescribed under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 7. Accreditation and Monitoring of Driving Schools and their Instructors- The Assistant Secretary of the LTO shall prescribe the requirements for the accreditation of driving schools and their instructors and may revoke the same for any lawful cause. The LTO shall, likewise, monitor the performance and continuing compliance of the driving schools and its instructors to the standards set by the agency and penalize violations of these standards.

Section 8. Creation of an Accreditation Committee. - An accreditation committee shall be constituted with the Assistant Secretary of the LTO as the Chairman, and a representative of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) as Vice-Chairman for the purpose of accrediting driving schools and

their instructors. Members of the said Accreditation Committee shall be appointed by the Assistant Secretary of the LTO. The LTO Regional Director of the region where a driving school applying for accreditation is located and where driving instructors applying for accreditation shall be employed, shall be a member of the Committee.

Section 9. Mandatory Continuing Technical Education of Driving Instructors – The LTO shall require a mandatory continuing technical education for driving instructors prior to the renewal of their accreditation.

Section 10. Prohibited Acts and Penalties. – Without prejudice to the penalties provided under the Revised Penal Code and other applicable laws, the penalties corresponding to the following prohibited acts shall be imposed by the LTO:

(a) For violations of the terms and conditions of accreditation, the driving school or its representative shall be penalized with a fine ranging from One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000) to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000) and/or suspension or revocation of its accreditation as may be decided by the Accreditation Committee; and

(b) For violations of the terms and conditions of accreditation, a driving school instructor shall be penalized with a fine ranging from Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000) and/or suspension or revocation of accreditation as may be decided by the Accreditation Committee

Section 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The implementing rules and regulations of this Act shall be issued by the LTO within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

Section 12. Appropriations. – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriation of the LTO. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation such as personnel services, capital outlay, maintenance and other operating expenditures, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 13. Repealing Clause. – Any law, decree, executive order, instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of

this Act is deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 14. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,