

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8098



Introduced by **Representatives EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO , MANUEL JOSE
"MANNIX" M. DALIPE, ALOYSIA T. LIM**

**AN ACT INTEGRATING ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF
THE BASIC EDUCATION (K TO 12) PROGRAM**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road traffic injury is a major public health concern. It kills 1.35 million people around the world annually and is among the top ten leading causes of death, being the only cause of death due to injury. Developing countries such as the Philippines bear the heaviest burden and are disproportionately affected by road traffic injuries. According to the World Health Organization, low- and middle-income countries account for more than 90% of road traffic deaths despite having only 54% of the world's registered vehicles¹.

Children and the youth are most vulnerable to road traffic injuries as it is the leading cause of death for ages 5-29 years old², this vulnerability is further exacerbated by children who have long commutes to and from school, and children with disabilities are at an increased risk when traveling on roads not supported by disabled access signs.

This situation is reflected in the Philippines due to the increasing rate of deaths cause by road traffic accidents in the past decade with 6,869 deaths recorded in 2006 and 11,360 in 2017³. Road traffic injury also has severe consequences on social and economic outcomes, not only by the loss of life affecting families and the communities but also by the productivity loss affecting the nation.

As part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrating road safety education in the school curricula concretizes the country's commitment to the ideals of Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 in achieving the target to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020. This is also in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 24 in ensuring *that all segments of*

¹ WHO, *Global status report on road safety 2016*.

² WHO, *Global status report on road safety 2018*.

³ K. Sy, 'IN NUMBERS: Road crash incidents in the Philippines', Rappler.

*society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents.*⁴

The proposed measure seeks to reduce the number of injury and fatality caused by road traffic accidents by integrating road safety education in the school curricula. The bill seeks to motivate the children and the youth to become responsible road users by equipping them with basic road safety knowledge to prevent road safety accidents and fulfilling the Philippine's commitment to achieving the SDG 3.6. As classes prepare for a blended program of learning amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to prepare the roads and strengthen the protection of children when face-to-face classes resume.



Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento



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⁴ UN Commission on Human Rights, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

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17 **THE BASIC EDUCATION (K TO 12) PROGRAM**
18

19 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
20 *Congress assembled:*
21

22 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Road Safety Education in
23 Schools Act."
24

25 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the State to ensure the
26 safety and security of its citizens through road safety infrastructures, legislations and
27 programs. Further, the State recognizes that road accidents and deaths are urgent
28 national health and development concerns that gravely affect children and the
29 economy of the State.
30

31 As a signatory to the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the state remains committed to
32 fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 3.6 on Good Health and
33 Well-being and to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic
34 accidents by 2020. Towards this end, the state shall establish an inclusive mechanism
35 that instills road safety consciousness to students and ensures their safety in and
36 outside of the school.
37

38 **Section 3. Road safety education,** which includes but not limited to pedestrian safety,
39 car passenger safety, driving safety, safety near roads, traffic signage, is hereby
40 required to be part of the curriculum for the K to 12 Program.
41

42 **Section 4. Definition of Terms.** – For the purpose of this Act:
43

- 44 (a) "Basic road safety" – refers to the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians
45 and commuters in their use of all types of roads used for transportation in

order to reduce the incidence of road accidents. It shall include, but not be limited to, road awareness, road signages, responsible commuting, and the responsibilities of pedestrians;

(b) "Comprehensive Drivers Education" – refers to the rights and responsibilities of drivers in their use of on all types of roads used for transportation in order to reduce incidence of road accidents. It shall include but not be limited to basic road safety and its components, education on pertinent laws and rules and regulations on driving, traffic signages, driving safety, and car passenger safety;

(c) "K to 12" – refers to the enhanced basic education program created under Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013".

(d) "Children with disabilities" – refers to persons below 18 years old who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, such as but not limited to children with physical or orthopedic disability; intellectual disability, learning disability, communication disability including deaf and hard of hearing; visual disability or psychosocial disability.

Section 5. *Integration into Curriculum.* – Basic road safety and comprehensive driver's education are hereby integrated into the curriculum of the K to 12 program. Basic road safety shall be made part of the elementary curriculum. Comprehensive driver's education shall be made part of the junior and senior high school and higher education curricula.

Section 6. *Teaching Modules.* – The scope of the teaching modules for each grade level shall be identified by the Department of Education (DepEd), taking into consideration the age and the level of comprehension of the students.

The UP-National Center for Transportation Studies Foundation, Inc. shall assist the DepEd in designing the teaching modules on road safety and traffic education.

Section 7. *Education Materials.* – all grade schools and high schools shall keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbook, primer and leaflet on road safety and traffic education prescribed by the DepEd. The adequacy of the number of books shall also be determined by the DepEd.

Section 8. *Road Safety Facilities and Traffic Signs.* – to enable students to recognize signs and use available road safety facilities properly.

Section 9. *Funding Source.* – The funds needed for the purpose of implementing this Act shall be sourced from the Road Safety Fund which is 7.5% of the Motor Vehicle's User's Charge.

Section 10. *Implementation.* – Within sixty (60) days after the implementation of this Act, the Department of Education in coordination with the Department of Transportation shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to govern the effective implementation of this Act.

96 **Section 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
97 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
98 repealed or modified accordingly.
99

100 **Section 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
101 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
102 provisions hereof.
103

104 **Section 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
105 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

