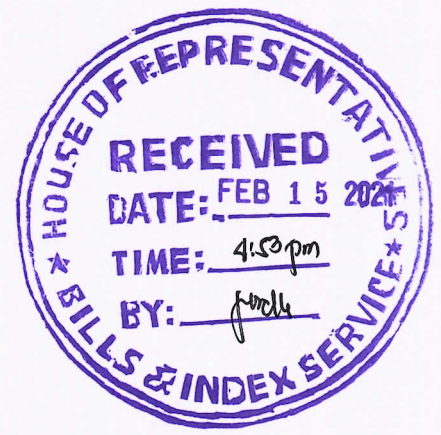


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8699**



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**Introduced by Representative Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the recent weeks, there was public clamor over the implementation of the Republic Act No. 11229 or the Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act. Particularly, motorists are opposing the sudden implementation of the law without information dissemination especially at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country's economy has contracted by 9.5% in 2020. This left 3.8 Million Filipinos unemployed (October 2020). To make matters worse, numerous Overseas Filipino Workers were forced to return to the country as pandemic brought a global recession. Most families are now concerned with only fulfilling their most basic and immediate needs. Any other expense would be an unnecessary burden.

While the law is clearly important as transportation and road safety is always a priority, we must remain responsive to the needs of the people and sensitive to the difficulties they are currently facing. A few years back, we could not have foreseen that a pandemic would happen around the time of the effectivity of the law. Aside from conducting a better public information campaign and improving the current Implementing Rules and Regulations of the law, a suspension of its implementation was also insisted on.

As a remedy to the unique situation the country finds itself in, this law would grant the President the power to temporarily suspend the implementation of the mandatory use of child restraint system in motor vehicles temporarily during national emergencies. This would cover other situations and national emergencies when the exigency of the circumstances warrant the suspension of the law's implementation. It must be noted that other provisions of the bill are not being postponed. We do not want other protections afforded to children to be deferred. Neither do we intend to postpone other activities which are vital to the implementation of the bill.

As such, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

**EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO**  
Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District Samar

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Eighteenth Congress**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8699**

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Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

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**AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THE POWER TO  
SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATORY USE OF CHILD  
RESTRAINT SYSTEM IN MOTOR VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11229, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHILD SAFETY IN  
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT**

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

**SEC. 1. Power to Suspend the Implementation of Mandatory Use of Child Restraint System in Motor Vehicles.** – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11229 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 4. *Mandatory Use of Child Restraint System in Motor Vehicles.* It shall be unlawful for the driver of a vehicle not to properly secure at all times a child, in a child restraint system while the engine is running or transporting such child on any road, street or highway unless the child is at least one hundred fifty (150) centimeters or fifty-nine (59) inches in height and is properly secured using the regular seat belt. **PROVIDED, THAT THE PRESIDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MAY SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATORY USE OF CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM IN MOTOR VEHICLES TEMPORARILY IN TIMES OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES, SUCH AS WHEN A STATE OF CALAMITY OR STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IS DECLARED. SUCH SUSPENSION MAY BE LIFTED BY THE PRESIDENT WHEN THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY CEASES TO EXIST. PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT** the child restraint system shall be appropriate to the child’s age, height and weight, and approved in accordance with Section 6 of this Act. The requirements of this section shall not apply to circumstances where the child restraint system would put the child in such greater danger, such as:

X X X

**SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Land Transportation Office, and all other agencies and stakeholders concerned, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations immediately upon the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid such declaration shall not affect other provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*