

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1544



Introduced by **Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers**

AN ACT REQUIRING BOTH NEW APPLICANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE AS WELL AS EXISTING LICENSED DRIVERS TO UNDERGO MANDATORY ROADWORTHY DRIVING SEMINAR AND ACTUAL DRIVING TEST BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To say that the traffic condition in the Philippines' highly urbanized cities is chaotic is an understatement. The pitiful plight that commuters and motorists go through everyday implores the need for every possible solution.

Concerned government agencies, along with local government units, continuously devise numerous traffic schemes that seek to alleviate the country's horrendous traffic woes. Apart from constructing more public roads and highways, and providing more options for the commuting public, one straightforward solution is to instill discipline and impart knowledge amongst motorists.

Uneducated drivers contribute to traffic congestion as traffic rules and regulations are blatantly ignored, consequently compounding the traffic problem. Safe and disciplined driving practice is key to keep the traffic system orderly. We simply cannot allow our current traffic behavior to continue. We must choose to impose order, and in the course, improve the traffic system and the economy.

This bill seeks to inculcate knowledge on road safety and traffic laws and regulations by requiring all driver's license applicants and existing licensed drivers to undergo mandatory driving seminars and an actual driving test before granting them full driving privileges.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Roadworthy Driving Seminar for All Drivers Act.*”

SEC. 2. Policy of the State. – A vehicle driving license is a privilege, not a right. It is the duty of the State to adopt adequate and unequivocal measures to ensure an orderly traffic system across the country. Safe and disciplined driving practice is key to alleviate the country's horrendous traffic crisis. Towards this end, it shall be the policy of the State to inculcate knowledge on road safety and traffic laws and regulations by requiring all driver's license applicants and existing licensed drivers to undergo mandatory driving seminars and actual driving test before granting them full driving privileges.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the following definitions :

1. **Mandatory Roadworthy Driving Seminar**– shall mean the specialized seminar that will educate all drivers about road safety and traffic laws and regulations.

2. **Roadworthy Driving Seminar Sponsoring Agency** - shall mean the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

3. **Certified Instructor** – shall mean any individual, employed by the sponsoring agency, who will facilitate the roadworthy driving seminar.

4. **Completion Certification** – shall mean a document which is provided to the student who successfully completes the mandatory roadworthy driving seminar.

SEC. 4. Requirements for Driver's License. – All drivers shall undergo the mandatory roadworthy driving seminar and actual driving test before a driver's license or a renewal thereof can be issued to them.

SEC. 5. Mandatory Roadworthy Driving Seminar. – The curriculum of the Seminar shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following subject matters:

- a) Safety precautions;
- b) Concept of accident preventability including a discussion of the magnitude of traffic accident problems.
- c) Techniques for defensive driving and handling critical situations.
- d) Philippine traffic laws and regulations, vehicle dynamics, capabilities, limitations, and highway environmental factors including but not limited to:
 - 1. Traffic signs, signals, markings, right-of-way requirements, and speed;
 - 2. Vehicle capabilities, such as stopping distances and passing abilities; and highway settings, operating environments and adverse conditions affected by weather, illumination and obstructions.
- e) First aid applications and basic knowledge on rescues;

SEC. 6. Roadworthy Driving Seminar Sponsoring Agency. – The Land Transportation Office shall create a program for the driving seminar and actual driving tests. A Completion Certification shall be issued the successful driver's license applicants, both new and old.

SEC. 7. Basic Standards for the Tests. – The LTO shall:

- (a) Require at least three (3) hours of instruction, with a certified instructor present.
- (b) Require at least thirty (30) minutes of actual driving through the roads by the applicant, with the test supervisor who will determine the fitness, qualification,

readiness, ability to drive, and the actual application of the knowledge learned from the seminar.

SEC. 8. *Seminar and Actual Driving Fee.* — For the successful applicants, the costs of the seminar and the actual driving test shall be incorporated in the license fee, which shall be determined by the Head of the Land Transportation Office. Those who fail shall pay a fee of not less than Five-Hundred Pesos but not more than One Thousand Pesos.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Transportation shall formulate the necessary guidelines for the seminar course outline and the actual driving test.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* — Any laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.