

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL No. 2733

Introduced by **REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION AND RIGOROUS ACTUAL DRIVING TEST AS PREREQUISITES IN THE ISSUANCE OF DRIVER’S LICENSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 4136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”, AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Roadworthy driving education and actual driving tests are essential for ensuring safe and responsible drivers on the road. Without proper education and rigorous testing, drivers may lack the skills needed to operate vehicles safely, leading to accidents, traffic violations, and even fatalities.

As the government vows to strengthen traffic and road safety rules in light of the recent vehicular accidents that claimed many innocent lives, this bill proposes means by which to improve road safety, reduce road accidents, and ensure traffic law knowledge and vehicle handling skills by drivers.

Through this measure, the Land Transportation Office shall be mandated to design and implement a comprehensive mandatory Roadworthy Driving Education Course to educate and measure the license applicants’ knowledge on traffic rules, defensive driving techniques, and proper handling of emergencies, among others.

The Roadworthy Driving Education Course shall be made accessible through online and onsite platforms to make it flexible and convenient for all applicants. Applicants can either choose to learn the course onsite or online at their own pace which can be beneficial for those who need more time to absorb information or who learn better outside a traditional classroom setting.

Rigorous actual driving tests shall also be administered to driver’s license applicants to ensure that they are able to demonstrate proficient vehicle handling skills before they are given a driver’s license. Their ability to handle emergency braking, navigate complex intersections, merge safely on expressways, and demonstrate proper night driving techniques, including other skills necessary to prove driving competency, shall be verified through the actual driving test.

By imposing strict testing and proper roadworthy education, unqualified drivers are prevented from getting licenses, thereby, reducing reckless driving behaviors on the road such as over speeding, distracted driving, and drunk driving.

Let us build discipline and responsibility among drivers by inculcating the importance of following traffic laws, respecting pedestrians, and prioritizing safety over speed. Immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM
DUMPER PTDA Partylist

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall guarantee the safety of its citizens by regulating the grant of driver’s licenses and providing for reforms in the issuance of said licenses. To ensure public safety, the government shall adopt adequate measures to inculcate knowledge on road safety, traffic laws and regulations by requiring all driver’s license applicants and existing licensed drivers who have been cited for multiple violations, to undergo mandatory driving education and actual driving test before granting them full driving privileges.

Sec. 2. A new section is hereby added after Section 23-A of Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the “*Land Transportation and Traffic Code*”, as amended, and numbered as Section 23-B, to read as follows:

“SEC. 23-B. MANDATORY ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION. – A SPECIALIZED EDUCATION ON MANDATORY ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION SHALL BE DESIGNED BY THE LTO TO INCULCATE KNOWLEDGE ON ALL DRIVERS REGARDING ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

“THE CURRICULUM OF THE MANDATORY ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION 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 OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING AND HANDLING OF 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) EFFECTS OF USING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE, OR ENGAGING IN OTHER ACTIONS THAT MAY DISTRACT A DRIVER, ON THE SAFE OR EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE;**
- “(F) FIRST AID APPLICATIONS AND BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON RESCUES AND EMERGENCIES;**
- “(G) ROAD SHARING WITH OTHER ROAD USERS SUCH AS PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS.”**

Sec. 3. A new section is hereby added after Section 23-B of the same Act and numbered as Section 23-C, to read as follows:

“SEC. 23-C. ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. – THE LTO SHALL MAKE ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL APPLICANTS BY CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION COURSE THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BOTH ONLINE AND ONSITE, IN ORDER TO GIVE DRIVER’S LICENSE APPLICANTS THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE PLATFORM THAT WILL BEST SUIT THEIR NEEDS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THEIR DRIVER’S LICENSE APTITUDE TEST.

“UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION COURSE, LICENSE APPLICANTS SHALL UNDERGO AN ONSITE THEORETICAL APTITUDE TEST AND RIGOROUS ACTUAL DRIVING TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LTO.

“PROVIDED, THAT THE ACTUAL DRIVING TEST SHALL REQUIRE AT LEAST THIRTY (30) MINUTES OF ACTUAL DRIVING AND ON-ROAD TESTING THAT NECESSITATES APPLICANTS TO DEMONSTRATE GENUINE DRIVING COMPETENCE AND KNOWLEDGE LEARNED FROM THE ROADWORTHY DRIVING EDUCATION COURSE. THE ACTUAL DRIVING TEST SHALL MEASURE THE APPLICANT’S ABILITY TO HANDLE EMERGENCY BRAKING, NAVIGATE COMPLEX INTERSECTIONS, MERGE SAFELY ON EXPRESSWAYS, AND DEMONSTRATE PROPER NIGHT DRIVING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING OTHER SKILLS NECESSARY TO PROVE DRIVING PROFICIENCY.

“PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE GRADING OF SYSTEM OF BOTH THEORETICAL AND ACTUAL TESTS SHALL GIVE HEAVIER CREDIT TO THE RESULT OF THE ACTUAL DRIVING TEST.”

Sec. 4. The subsequent sections of the same Act, as amended, are hereby renumbered accordingly.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, order, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,