

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 7421

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
INTEGRATING ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road traffic injuries continue to be a significant public health and safety crisis in the Philippines. In 2024, the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) reported nearly 31,000 road accidents nationwide, resulting in 2,747 deaths—a more than 35% increase compared to the previous year¹. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29, with many incidents attributed to human error and preventable behaviors such as speeding, improper overtaking, drunk driving, and mobile phone use while driving².

Current road safety efforts are largely reactive. While the Land Transportation Office (LTO) enforces crucial regulations and campaigns, these interventions typically engage Filipinos only when they apply for a driver's license or after they have already begun navigating the roads independently. This approach leaves a significant gap, as many individuals lack fundamental knowledge of road safety and traffic discipline before they begin using public roads.

The Senior High School level presents a crucial opportunity to address this gap. At this stage, students increasingly use the roads as pedestrians, commuters, cyclists, and, in the future, as drivers. By integrating road safety education into the Senior High School curriculum, students will acquire essential knowledge about traffic rules, risk awareness, and responsible road use before they actively participate in motorized traffic.

¹ Philippine National Police - Highway Patrol Group. (2024). Traffic Accident Reports 2024. Manila: PNP-HPG.

² World Health Organization. (2020). Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018. Geneva: World Health Organization.

This bill proposes to institutionalize basic road safety education within the Senior High School curriculum, either as a standalone subject or an elective. The focus will be on fostering education, values formation, and promoting safety-oriented behavior. By equipping students with this knowledge early, the State can cultivate a culture of discipline and respect for traffic laws, ultimately reducing road accidents and nurturing a generation of responsible Filipino road users.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.

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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 Act.”
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24 Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote
25 the right of every Filipino to life, safety, and quality education. In line with this policy,
26 the State recognizes the importance of instilling traffic discipline, road safety
27 awareness, and responsible mobility among the youth as a preventive approach to
28 reducing road traffic injuries, deaths, and property damage. Towards this end, the
29 State shall institutionalize age-appropriate road safety education in the Senior High
30 School level to foster a culture of safety, discipline, and respect for traffic laws among
31 future road users.

32 Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are
33 defined:

- 34 a. *Road Safety Education* shall refer to the structured instruction on traffic rules,
35 road safety principles, risk awareness, and responsible behavior of pedestrians,
36 commuters, cyclists, and drivers.

b. *Senior High School* shall refer to the level of students enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 under Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”;

Section 4. **Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all public and private Senior High Schools, subject to the rules and standards prescribed by the Department of Education (DepEd).

Section 5. **Mandatory Inclusion in the Senior High School Curriculum.** – The DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies (UP NCTS) and Land Transportation Office (LTO), shall integrate a Road Safety Education Course into the Senior High School Curriculum, which may be offered as a specialized elective subject, or an integrated component of existing subjects, as may be determined by the DepEd.

Section 6. **Road Safety Education Course.** – The course shall cover at least the following minimum thematic areas, the detailed content, scope, sequencing, and instructional design of which shall be further determined by DepEd through the implementing rules and regulations, in coordination with the concerned agencies.

The course shall be divided into two modules:

A. Basic Module (Grade 11), which shall include, but not limited to:

- a. Rights and responsibilities of pedestrians, commuters, and cyclists;
- b. Compliance to road signs and signals by pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and passengers of different modes of land transport;
- c. Compliance to pavement markings and traffic light signals;
- d. Use of pedestrian crossings and walkways, bicycle and motor vehicle lanes, points of embarkation and disembarkation, sidewalks and overpasses;
- e. Responsible commuting practices, including safety in public transport;
- f. Basic emergency response and first aid for road incidents;
- g. Hazards on the road, and proper use of helmets and seatbelts; and
- h. Anti-drunk and drugged driving, and traffic accidents with their consequences.

B. Advanced module (Grade 12), which shall include, but not limited to:

- a. Overview of the basic module;

- b. Rights and responsibilities of a driver, vehicle owner, operator of public utility vehicles;
- c. Introduction to the organizational set-up and functions of the Land Transportation Office and other land transport-related institutions;
- d. Basic knowledge of Republic Act No. 10586, otherwise known as the “Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013” which penalizes persons driving under the influence of alcohol, dangerous drugs, and similar substances;
- e. Basic knowledge of Republic Act No. 8750, otherwise known as the “Seat Belts Use Act of 1999” that requires the mandatory compliance by motorists of private and public vehicles to use seat belt devices, and requiring vehicle manufacturers to install seat belt devices in all their manufactured vehicles; and
- f. Relevant laws, ordinances, and related topics on road safety and traffic management including those which prohibit drivers from using mobile phones and other gadgets while driving a motor vehicle, and other forms of transportation.

Practical exercises, including simulations, may be conducted where feasible and in accordance with DepEd guidelines.

Section 7. ***Training of personnel.*** – The DepEd, in coordination with the DOTr, LTO, and other relevant government agencies, shall ensure the adequate training and capacity building of teachers and instructors who will deliver the road safety education course. Resource speakers from the LTO, Philippine National Police- Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), and road safety non-government organizations may be engaged.

Section 8. ***Learning Materials.*** – The DepEd, UP NCTS and LTO, shall jointly develop age-appropriate and research-based instruction materials for road safety education, which may include printed textbooks, primers, leaflets, digital and online learning resources.

The DepEd shall ensure the availability and accessibility of such learning materials for all schools, subject to existing laws, policies, and resources.

1 Section 9. **Partnerships.** – The DepEd may enter into partnerships with accredited
2 driving schools, and private entities for the provision of simulators, instructional
3 support, or technical assistance, subject to existing laws and regulations.

4 Section 10. **Equivalency and Certification.** – Upon successful completion of the
5 course, the school, in coordination with the DepEd, may issue a Certificate of Road
6 Safety Education Completion, which may be recognized by the LTO as compliance with
7 the theoretical component of driver education requirements, subject to validation and
8 existing licensing regulations.

9 Section 11. **Appropriation.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
10 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter,
11 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
12 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13 Section 12. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
14 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, UP NCTS and LTO and other relevant government
15 agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
16 implementation of this Act.

17 Section 13. **Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
18 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or
19 provisions hereof as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect.

20 Section 14. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
21 letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative orders, rules or regulations or
22 parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
23 or modified accordingly.

24 Section 15. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
25 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,