

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10163**



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE CONTINUING DRIVER'S
EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road and vehicular-related accidents remain among the leading causes of death globally. According to the World Health Organization's Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023, road traffic crashes claim approximately 1.19 million lives each year worldwide and are the leading cause of death among individuals aged 5 to 29 years.

In the Philippines, road traffic injuries continue to pose a significant public health concern. Recent data indicate that road traffic deaths reached 11,096 in 2021, with a mortality rate of about 9.7 deaths per 100,000 population, reflecting the persistent and growing risks posed by vehicular accidents nationwide.

Studies show that most traffic-related accidents and vehicular incidents are attributable to human error and negligence (i.e. overspeeding, using a cellphone while driving, drunk driving, overtaking and wrong turning, etc.) However, most of these incidents can be prevented through appropriate intervention such as the proper education and continuing training of our road users on road safety and traffic regulations.

This bill seeks to include a comprehensive continuing driver's education program in the Senior High School (SHS) to develop our students' knowledge on traffic rules and regulations as well as on the safe operation of motor vehicles pursuant to international road and traffic safety standards.

The program further seeks to enable students to assess their skills and behavior on the road and instill in them the sense of responsibility that comes from acquiring the correct knowledge on driving motor vehicles to ensure their safety as well as of other road users.

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

REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Continuing Driver’s Education Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Continuing Driver's Education Program* — The Continuing Driver's Education Program shall be included in the Senior High School Curriculum to educate the youth on the importance of responsible driving, obedience to traffic regulations and road safety standards for passengers, commuters and pedestrians.

SECTION 3. *Coverage* — The Program shall be taught to Senior High School Students, ages 17 and above, in all public and private schools. The classes will be handled by a Professional Driving Instructor who is qualified and accredited by the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) with a valid Professional Driver's License issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

SECTION 4. *Program Course* — The Department of Education shall adopt course standards for the Continuing Driver's Education Program which shall include, but not limited to; knowledge on the operation and maintenance of motor vehicles, comprehensive study on road traffic rules and regulations, introduction to road transportation laws, psychology of driving (correct eye usage, defensive driving, effects of driving under the influence), machine troubleshooting skills and comparative analysis and course study on international traffic and road safety policies, regulations and standards.

The Driver's Education Program will be for 30 hours of classroom instruction. The student driver who will successfully pass the levels of course examination will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in either the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,