

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 AUG -1 P 1 :34

SENATE
S. No. 964

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the objective of the State to promote public safety in the transportation of passengers, particularly school children. To achieve this objective, it is essential that the State shall prescribe minimum design standards of school buses for the safety of its student passengers.

This bill speaks for itself. This bill seeks to prescribe regulations to mitigate the effects of vehicular accidents by prescribing safety standards for school buses.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE 

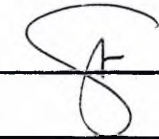
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 Section 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the "*School Bus Safety Act of*
2 *2022.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote safety in order to protect passengers of school buses from injury in case of
5 accidents.

6 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms* – For purposes of this Act the terms:

7 a) "Bus" means a motor vehicle, except a trailer, designed for carrying more
8 than 10 persons;

9 b) "School Bus" means a bus that is used for purposes that include carrying
10 students to and from public or private school or school-related events on a regular
11 basis, but does not include a transit bus or a school-chartered bus;

12 c) "School-Chartered Bus" means a bus that is operated under a short-term
13 contract with the school authorities who have acquired exclusive use of the bus at a
14 fixed charge in order to provide transportation for a group of pupils to a special school
15 related event; and

1 d) "Seats Belts" refer to the combined lap belt and shoulder strap that
2 fasten a rider to moving vehicle and prevent the rider from being thrown out or against
3 the interior of the vehicle during sudden stops.

4 *Sec. 4. Proficiency Standards for School Bus Drivers. –*

5 a) Requirement- Not later than one (1) year after the date of enactment of
6 this Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe proficiency standards for
7 school bus drivers who are required to possess a professional license to operate a
8 school bus.

9 b) Demonstration of Proficiency- Upon the prescription of standards under
10 subsection (a), each school bus driver referred to in subsection (a) shall demonstrate
11 (at such interval as the Department of Transportation shall prescribe) to the employer
12 of the driver, the school, the licensing agency, or other person or agency responsible
13 for regulating school bus drivers the proficiency of such driver in operating a school bus
14 in accordance with the proficiency standards prescribed under subsection (a) or the
15 proficiency standards established by the State concerned, as the case may be.

16 *Sec. 5. Seat Belts in School Buses. –*

17 a) Requirement for Installation- Not later than one (1) year after the date of
18 the enactment of this Act, the Department of Transportation shall prescribe regulations
19 requiring driver seat belts and passenger seat belts (including lap safety belts or other
20 child safety devices meeting applicable government safety standards) for each seating
21 position in any newly-manufactured school bus Owners of school buses which are not
22 currently equipped with seat belts shall be given a period of six (6) months from the
23 publication of the regulations of this Act to install the necessary seat belts in their
24 school buses,

25 b) Promotion of Seat Belt Usage-

26 1) In General- The Department of Transportation, in consultation with
27 appropriate safety organizations and parent-teacher organizations, shall conduct a
28 program to promote and encourage the use of seat belts in school buses.

29 2) Elements of Program- In conducting the program required under this
30 subsection, the Department of Transportation shall:

1 i. Encourage the local governments to monitor the mandatory usage
2 of seat belts in school buses;

3 ii. Develop and disseminate educational materials on the importance
4 of using seat belts to passengers and drivers of school buses; and

5 iii. Recognize schools that achieve a high level of seat belt usage by
6 passengers and drivers of school buses.

7 Sec. 6. *Registration* – No school bus shall be allowed to be registered unless it is
8 equipped with the necessary seat belts.

9 Sec. 7. *Implementing Authority* – The Department of Transportation shall be
10 primarily responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act. For this purpose,
11 the Department of Transportation, in consultation with relevant government agencies
12 and private citizens organizations and stakeholders, shall issue within ninety (90) days
13 from the effectivity of this Act the relevant implementing rules and regulations.

14 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
16 remain valid and subsisting.

17 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
19 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or
20 amended accordingly.

21 Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes
23 earlier.

Approved.