

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 680



Introduced by **Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

**AN ACT
TO CONSTRUCT OVERPASS IN ALL NATIONAL ROADS
WITH PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that more than 270,000 pedestrians die on roads each year which account for 22 percent of the 1.24 million road traffic deaths. This indicates that pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users. We are all pedestrians, and governments should put in place measures to better protect all of us. This will not only save lives, but create the conditions needed to make walking safe. When roads are safe, people will walk more, and this in turn will improve health and protect the environment.

Statistics also show that children make up a high proportion of pedestrian deaths and injuries. Because children are smaller, less visible and are often unpredictable, they are more vulnerable, than any other road user, to vehicular accidents. Drivers must therefore exercise extraordinary degree of care in school zones which are doubly dangerous to children when these schools are located along national highways. One engineering intervention that would enhance safety to pupils and students is by constructing an overpass near schools, private or public, over national roads where they cross when going and coming from the school.

Thus, it is for the above reason that the construction of overpass in all national roads or highways with schools is being earnestly sought for the safety of pedestrians, especially children, and easing traffic in major roads.

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


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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 “Mandatory Overpass Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to afford or promote safety to pedestrians, especially the most vulnerable road users, as provided by law. The State recognizes the sanctity of life and ensures every human being is safe and secure every minute and in every corner of the world.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* –

- (a) “Overpass” refers to a footbridge or similar structure that crosses over a road or national highway.
- (b) “National Road/Highway” refers herein as the network of roads maintained by the Department of Public Works and Highways classified as national primary, national secondary and national tertiary roads under the Road Classification System.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) an overpass in every, or nearby school situated along

a national road or highway to allow pedestrians safe crossing over busy roads without interrupting the smooth flow of traffic.

SEC. 4. *Role of Agencies.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways, with the assistance from the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act to formulate a guideline, identification and to structure a timetable to ensure the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriation.* – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the SEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,