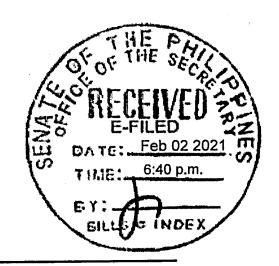
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 633



Introduced by Senators SONNY ANGARA, JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI, JOEL VILLANUEVA, WIN GATCHALIAN, MARIA LOURDES NANCY BINAY, AND GRACE POE

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR) AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11229 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHILD SAFETY IN MOTOR VEHICLES ACT UNTIL NECESSARY GUIDELINES ARE PUT IN PLACE AND AGENCY MANDATES ARE FULFILLED

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11229 or the Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act, a law intended to provide added safety and prevent injuries and death to children passengers, was enacted on 22 February 2019. Its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on 23 December 2019 and was announced by the Land Transportation Authority (LTO) to take effect on 2 February 2021;

WHEREAS, while the intent of the law is laudable and was, in fact, commended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as it helps prevent gruesome and untimely deaths of children from road crashes—reported to be more than 600 deaths per year—the announcement of the law's implementation surprised many Filipinos claiming that the LTO was not able to adequately inform the public of the law and give ample time for private car owners to secure their own child restraint system (CRS) or child car seats since Section 4 of the law mandates that children—defined as those who are 12 years old and below—who are shorter than 4 feet and 11 inches are required to use a CRS or car seats appropriate for their age and size;

WHEREAS, Filipinos also expressed concern and confusion as to how the LTO will certify the car seats acquired prior to the effectivity of the law as Section 13 of the IRR mandates that the owners of these car seats are required to secure a

certificate from LTO ensuring that the car seat is not expired or damaged and is fit for use;

WHEREAS, in addition, the Department of Trade and Industry Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) has yet to issue a list of car seat brands and models that meet the technical regulations or the product certificate of car seats. While the DTI-BPS has already issued an administrative order providing for the Technical Regulations for Product Certification of Child Restraint Systems, only one application for Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) of car seats has been received by the bureau which is still being processed as of date;

WHEREAS, the LTO has also yet to comply with the establishment and accreditation of fitting stations as stated under Section 16 of the IRR of R.A. No. 11229 to ensure that the car seats are properly fitted and installed. In fact, in a radio interview, LTO NCR Director Clarence Guinto noted that they are still currently training their enforcers on the proper installation of child car seats;

WHEREAS, even if the law is well-intentioned, it is understandable that Filipinos would be apprehensive about the implementation of this measure especially since the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the various community quarantines are still being felt by majority of Filipinos. With decent child car seats costing anywhere from P3,000.00 to as high as P60,000.00 each, procuring these could undoubtably add to the financial burden of motorists;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the ongoing pandemic, the financial struggles of many Filipinos, and the government regulations that prohibit children of certain ages from going out, it is only justified that the implementation of this law be deferred not only to allow Filipinos to recover and prepare but also for our government agencies to fulfill what is mandated under the law namely: i) for LTO to sufficiently inform the public about the requirements or R.A. No. 11229 and its IRR; ii) for LTO to issue guidelines for the certification of child car seats acquired prior to the effectivity of the law; iii) for DTI to issue a list of compliant and/or certified brands and models; and iv) for LTO to establish and accredit fitting stations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to urge the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to defer the implementation of Republic Act No. 11229 otherwise known as the Child Safety in

- 1 Motor Vehicles Act until necessary guidelines are put in place and agency mandates
- 2 are fulfilled.

Adopted,

SONNY ANGARA

JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI

JOEL VILLANUEVA

WIN GATCHALIAN

MARIA LOURDES NANCY BINAY

GRACE POE