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**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. NO. 637**

NOV 15 2011

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Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE ADEQUATENESS OF THE CURRENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTATION OF CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, WHICH ARE SOLD ON THE LOCAL MARKET AND THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF, TO PROTECT AND PREVENT HARM ON THE BUYING PUBLIC.**

**Whereas**, Article XVI Section 9 of the Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products”;

**Whereas**, Article 2 of Republic Act (RA) 7394 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines declared that it is a policy of the State “to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry”;

**Whereas**, it is now Christmas season and this early, the local market is already flooded with Christmas decorations— particularly Christmas lights — that are for sale;

**Whereas**, Christmas lights are regulated products thus certain requirements must be obtained prior to their sale, these are: Republic Act 4109 (Standards Law), and Department Administrative Order (DAO) 01:1997 and DAO 05:2001, which require manufacturers and importers or distributors of these products to secure the Philippine Standards (PS) License or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) Certificate;

**Whereas**, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-certified Christmas lights are ensured to have thick wires with a minimum outside diameter size of 1.5mm and have stiff plugs;

**Whereas**, those that are not DTI certified may be of substandard quality and unsafe for use as their plug pins may be easily bent and these lights frequently have thin wires which can trigger fire;

**Whereas**, to ensure a hazard free holiday festivity, DTI has issued warnings to the public stating that “the public (should)... be vigilant and extra cautious in choosing the Christmas lights they buy and adorn in their homes so as not to put the lives of their loved ones in danger”;

**Whereas**, in light with the numerous fires triggered by defective Christmas lights in the past years, it is necessary that there is proactive monitoring of the proliferation of non-certified Christmas lights in order to protect the public and that perpetrators are properly meted out with penalties;

**Whereas**, currently, perpetrators found to be possessing and selling substandard sets of Christmas lights are made liable under Executive Order 913 and RA 7394 providing for a maximum fine of P300,000.00 per violation, without prejudice to the filing of criminal or civil actions against violators;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Trade and Commerce to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, in order to assess the adequateness of the current laws and regulations governing the sale, distribution, manufacture and importation of Christmas products, particularly Christmas lights, which are sold on the local market and the implementation thereof, to protect and prevent harm on the buying public.

**Adopted,**



**Manny Villar**