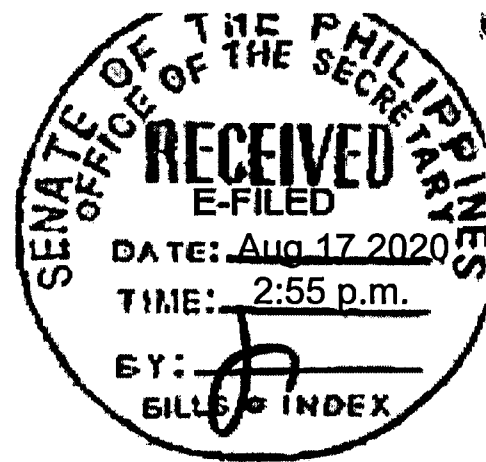


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 499

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT STANDARD HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN THE WORKPLACE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES IN THE WORKPLACE**

1           WHEREAS, months after the onset of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), this  
2           dreaded virus continues to infect our people and is expected to linger for more months,  
3           if not years, pending the availability of vaccine that will protect our people from the  
4           virus;

5           WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force  
6           for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has issued various  
7           guidelines that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 including the standards for  
8           testing, contact tracing and treatment, as well as the conduct of various businesses  
9           and public affairs;

10           WHEREAS, among the major measures taken by the government is the  
11           implementation of appropriate levels of community quarantine in the provinces of our  
12           country;

13           WHEREAS, despite these initiatives, the number of persons infected with  
14           COVID-19 continue to increase;

15           WHEREAS, the DOH reported that the total number of COVID-19 cases in the  
16           country reached 143,749 as of 12 August 2020;

1           WHEREAS, as of even date, Civil Service Commission (CSC) records show that  
2 there are 18,102 government workers who were infected by the disease and 17,533  
3 who are suspected to be infected;

4           WHEREAS, of the total number of government employees who tested positive  
5 for COVID-19, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is the agency that registered the most  
6 number of cases at 797;

7           WHEREAS, meanwhile, the regions that have the most number of infected  
8 government employees are the National Capital Region (NCR) with 13,430 cases,  
9 Region VII with 2,394 cases, and Region IV with 780 cases;

10           WHEREAS, related to this, 192 government agencies all over the country are  
11 locked down, 129 of which are in the NCR, 28 are in Region IV and 16 are in Region  
12 VII;

13           WHEREAS, it is of paramount importance to ensure the health and safety of  
14 public servants to enable them to continuously serve their constituents with the proper  
15 and sufficient protection from being infected by the disease;

16           WHEREAS, of vital consideration also is the definition of procedures and  
17 processes for the management of asymptomatic and symptomatic employees in the  
18 workplace that will secure the employees with the needed support in the event that  
19 they will acquire the disease;

20           WHEREAS, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has issued several guidelines in  
21 response to COVID-19, specifically on the interim guidelines on the use of leave credits  
22 for absences due to quarantine and/or treatment relative to COVID-19 (MC No. 05  
23 and MC No. 08, s. 2020) and interim guidelines for alternative work arrangements and  
24 support mechanisms for government workers during the period of public health /  
25 national emergency due to COVID-19 (MC No. 07 and MC No. 10, s.2020);

26           WHEREAS, however, none of the CSC issuances contains detailed and  
27 comprehensive guidelines that provides specific and complete instructions, protocols  
28 and procedures to government offices and their employees on how to keep their  
29 workplaces, workers, and clients safe from the spread of COVID-19;

30           WHEREAS, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department  
31 of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued on 30 April 2020 the Interim Guidelines on  
32 Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19 for workers in the private sector which

1 serves as a guide to employers and workers on: 1) workplace safety and health  
2 through increased physical and mental resilience, reduced transmission of COVID-19,  
3 minimized contact rate, and reduced risk of infection; 2) duties of employers and  
4 workers; 3) workplace with imminent danger situations; 4) COVID-19 testing; 5) most  
5 at risk workers and vulnerable groups; 6) assistance by the DTI and DOLE; and 7)  
6 reporting of illnesses/diseases/injuries;

7 WHEREAS, subsequently, DTI and DOLE issued on 15 August 2020 Joint  
8 Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A Series of 2020 entitled "DTI and DOLE  
9 Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19" which  
10 outlines specific measures for 1) safety and health to increase physical and mental  
11 resilience, reduce transmission of COVID-19, reduce contact, and reduce duration of  
12 infection; 2) management of asymptomatic and symptomatic employees in the  
13 workplace by remote management of cases and close contacts, isolation and referral,  
14 contact tracing, and COVID-19 testing; 3) Occupational Safety and Health Committees  
15 (OSH Committees); 4) notification and reporting; 5) disinfection and closure of  
16 buildings/workplaces; and 6) leave of absences and entitlements;

17 WHEREAS, the CSC, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and  
18 other relevant agencies, should issue similar guidelines that will provide holistic,  
19 comprehensive, and responsive approach to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the  
20 workplace;

21 WHEREAS, absent the adoption of standard health and safety protocols in  
22 government offices, the health and lives of government employees will continue to be  
23 compromised in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic;

24 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the government offices to immediately adopt  
25 such standard protocols under the guidance of the CSC to avert the increasing number  
26 of infected government employees around the country which will ultimately protect  
27 their families and communities and, in effect, alleviate our health workers from further  
28 burden;

29 Now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To urge all government  
31 agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled  
32 corporations and local government units to immediately adopt standard health and

1 safety protocols in the workplace under the guidance of the Civil Service Commission,  
2 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among government employees in the performance  
3 of their duties in the workplace.

4 *Adopted,*

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**