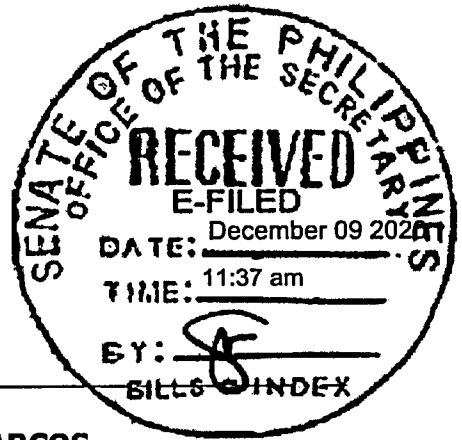


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 591



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CASHLESS AND CONTACTLESS TRANSACTION FOR VEHICLES IN THE EXPRESSWAY THROUGH RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION, CAUSING CONFUSION AND PANIC TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND HEAVY TRAFFIC IN TOLL PLAZAS

WHEREAS, on 8 March 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, series of 2020, declaring the entire country under a state of public health emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in an effort to complement health protocols enforced by the national government to minimize the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus disease, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) issued Department Order No. 2020-012 on 13 August 2020, requiring cashless or contactless transaction for all vehicles traveling on toll expressways;

WHEREAS, Department Order No. 2020-012 also directed the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to formulate new processes and procedures within three (3) months to ensure the smooth implementation of the new policy;

WHEREAS, under the cashless toll collection scheme, motorists will be required to install at least two RFIDs, namely the *Autosweep RFID*, issued by the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) for the Skyway, South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), STAR Tollway, Tarlac–Pangasinan–La Union Expressway (TPLEX), Ninoy Aquino International Airport Expressway (NAIAX), and the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX) and the *Easytrip*

RFID which can only be used issued by the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) to be used in the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), Cavite Expressway (CAVITEx), C5 Southlink, and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX);

WHEREAS, the DoTr initially set the deadline for the effectivity of cashless toll collection on 2 November 2020, following the confirmation of TRB Executive Director Abraham Sales as to the readiness of the expressway operators to implement the electronic toll collection system at their respective tollways;

WHEREAS, according to DoTr Assistant Secretary Goddes Hope Libiran, LTO is looking at issuing citations to motorists who fail to install an RFID sticker in their vehicles before entering an expressway or a toll road, based on Republic Act No. 4136 or the "*Land Transportation and Traffic Code*" and DoTr Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 2014-01 where disobedient drivers can be issued a ticket for "disregarding traffic signs," a violation under the same Order, with a PHP1,000 fine;

WHEREAS, because of this, the Department received a multitude of complaints from motorists, citing the difficulty they experienced obtaining these RFIDs, the incompatibility of the two RFID systems, and the unreasonable cap set by toll operators in the installation they make per day;

WHEREAS, this prompted the Department to extend the deadline of the installation of the RFID to 1 December 2020, with both the SMC and the MPTC establishing their own set of guidelines as to the how and where the *Easytrip* and *Autosweep* RFIDs may be installed, respectively;

WHEREAS, during the Senate deliberations last 17 November 2020, DoTr representatives clarified that that they will not fine motorists whose vehicles would not have RFID tags by 1 December 2020 – but only during the Christmas season;

WHEREAS, when prodded as to how much the fine to be imposed will be, DoTr representatives were not able to give a definitive answer;

WHEREAS, despite the extension granted by the DoTr in the installation of the RFID, many motorists still find it extremely difficult to have the *Easytrip* and *Autosweep tags* installed, as evidenced by the unbearable traffic congestion in several expressways;

WHEREAS, contrary to the statement of TRB Executive Director Abraham Sales that there will no longer be extensions after 1 December 2020, the Department yet again extended the deadline for the installation of the RFID to 11 January 2021;

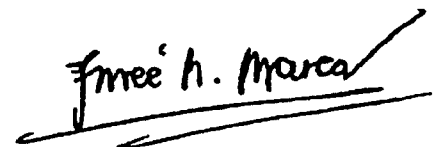
WHEREAS, despite the prudent intent to lessen physical contact in order to contain the spread of COVID-19, it is apparent that the implementation of the cashless and contactless transaction for all vehicles traveling on toll expressways have not been carefully planned and coordinated, thereby causing unnecessary burden to the people;

WHEREAS, the RFID was originally designed to provide the motoring public with seamless travel in the expressways with the toll collections to be fully electronic and do away with the physical payment booths;

WHEREAS, the transition period have caused heavy traffic in the toll plazas due to malfunctioning RFID sensors which prompted the local government unit of Valenzuela City to cancel the business permit of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) for their tollways operation within the City of Valenzuela;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on confusing implementation of the cashless and contactless transaction for vehicles in the expressway through radio frequency Identification, causing confusion and panic to the general public and heavy traffic in the toll plazas.

Adopted,



IMEE R. MARCOS