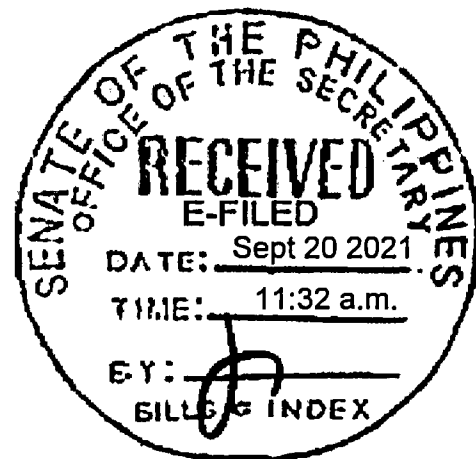


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 910

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPLIANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003 ON SEGREGATION OF WASTES, WITH THE END VIEW OF ENACTING AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE PROTOCOL ON PROPER AND EFFECTIVE SEGREGATION AND DISPOSAL OF COVID-19-RELATED HEALTH CARE WASTES

1 WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution declares, in part,
2 that “[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
3 development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social
4 services available to all the people at affordable cost”;

5 WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological
6 Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”, is the umbrella waste management policy in
7 the Philippines which aims to provide a comprehensive and ecological solid waste
8 management among the LGUs in the Philippines, to protect public health and ensure
9 environmental sustainability and economic efficiency¹;

10 WHEREAS, according to a report by the United Nations Environment
11 Program, the Philippines is considered to be the fourth largest generator of solid
12 waste among country-members of the ASEAN as it generates up to 14.66 million tons
13 of trash per year²;

¹ Premakumara, D. G. J., Canete, A. M. L., & Nagaishi, M. (2013, November 23). Policy implementation of the Republic Act (RA) 9003 in the Philippines: A case study of Cebu City. *Waste Management*, 34(6), 971-979. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2013.10.040>

² Rappler (11 December 2020). *PH local government juggle COVID-19 response and garbage problem*. Retrieved on 14 September 2020 from rappler.com/environment/philippines-local-governments-juggle-covid-19-response-garbage-problem

14 WHEREAS, as COVID-19 cases surge in the Philippines, the amount of
15 COVID-19-related health care wastes produced within healthcare facilities, research
16 centers, and laboratories related to medical procedures as well as at homes (e.g.,
17 home dialysis, self-administration of insulin, recuperative care) have grown
18 exponentially;

19 WHEREAS, Metro Manila alone generates 280 metric tons of medical waste
20 daily during the pandemic. According to Environment Undersecretary for Climate
21 Change Analiza Teh, as of 14 April 2021, our country has produced around 52,000
22 metric tons of hospital wastes. This is equivalent to over two million sacks of rice,
23 with one sack containing 25 kilograms. This coincides with another study³ stating
24 that the Philippines ranked 17th worldwide in terms of global plastic waste generated
25 from COVID-19 facemasks. This is a drastic 595% increase from the 47 metric tons of
26 trash generated from healthcare facilities before the pandemic⁴;

27 WHEREAS, according to Sangkham study (2020), the Philippines generated
28 353.03 tons of medical waste per day⁵. It is estimated that the daily production of
29 surgical masks amounts to 78,560,000 pieces, while the N95 masks amount to
30 19,600,000 pieces. Meanwhile, the consumption of single-use face masks is
31 estimated at 98,192,700 pieces daily. With this, it is estimated that the annual face
32 mask wastes in the country would amount to 201,871.15 tons, 153,824.65 tons of
33 which may potentially end up in the ocean;

34 WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) issued the revised Health Care
35 Waste Management Manual that was produced in close collaboration with other
36 government agencies, the academe, civil society, and various professional groups.
37 The Manual provides information regarding safety procedures on the collection,
38 transport, handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of healthcare wastes.⁶ However,

³ Benson, Nsikak U., Basse, David E., Palanisami. (February 2021). *COVID Pollution: impact of COVID-19 pandemic on global plastic waste footprint. Heliyon, Volume 7, Issue 2, 2021, e06343, ISSN 2405-8440, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e06343>.*

⁴ Manila Bulletin (14 May 2021). *Medical, plastic waste becoming a bigger problem in PH*. Retrieved on 14 September 2021 from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/14/medical-plastic-waste-becoming-a-bigger-problem-in-ph/>

⁵ Sangkham, S. (2020). Face mask and medical waste disposal during the novel COVID-19 pandemic in Asia. *Case Studies in Chemical and Environmental Engineering, 2*, 100052

⁶ Department of Health. Retrieved 30 August 2021, from: https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/Health_Care_Waste_Management_Manual.pdf

39 it appears that there are no similar protocols regarding household COVID-19-related
40 wastes;

41 WHEREAS, remedial measures or interim guidelines to ensure the proper
42 disposal and storage of COVID-19-related health care wastes appear to be
43 inadequate. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has
44 emphasized that the paramount way to manage solid waste is the Local Government
45 Units' (LGUs) strict compliance with waste segregation laws, especially R.A. No.
46 90037;

47 WHEREAS, the DENR asserts that Transporters, Storage, and Disposal (TSD)
48 facilities across the country only accommodate healthcare institutions.⁸ Hence,
49 household healthcare wastes are catered by local waste collectors without proper
50 knowledge of handling, storing, and disposal of healthcare wastes;

51 WHEREAS, the increased volume of healthcare wastes has imposed new
52 burdens on both the national and local governments;

53 WHEREAS, the absence of strong solid waste management during the
54 pandemic might contribute to the rapid and more widespread transmission of
55 COVID-19 in the country⁹;

56 WHEREAS, the full cooperation and strong political commitment of LGUs are
57 critical ingredients of an efficient and effective implementation of R.A. No. 9003;

58 WHEREAS, given the inadequate and improper handling of hazardous wastes
59 in local communities during this pandemic, which have serious public health
60 consequences as well as significant environmental impact, it is crucial for the
61 government to adequately and immediately respond, by developing a contingency
62 plan based on local conditions and requirements;

⁷ Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (2021, March 14). Cimatú: Household healthcare wastes ending up in PH oceans alarming. <https://denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/2276-cimatu-household-healthcare-wastes-ending-up-in-ph-oceans-alarming>

⁸ Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (2021 August 31). <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/2289-vaccine-related-waste-disposal-management-in-place-since-2020-denr>

⁹ Nishimura, H., Kojima, M., Iwasaki, F., Johannes, H. P., & Edita, E. P. (2020, July 2). Strengthening Waste Management Policies to Mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.eria.org/publications/strengthening-waste-management-policies-to-mitigate-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

63 WHEREAS, there is an utmost need to conduct a re-assessment of the
64 implementation and level of compliance of LGUs with R.A. 9003;

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to direct the
66 appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
67 compliance of Local Government Units (LGUs) with Republic Act No. 9003 on the
68 segregation of wastes, with the end view of enacting amendments to the existing
69 legislation that will provide a comprehensive protocol on proper and effective
70 segregation and disposal of COVID-19-related health care wastes.

Adopted,


LEILA M. DE LIMA