



'22 OCT 19 P3:41

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 265

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 (LGC) IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 521 OF THE SAME, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND PROVIDING A MORE RESPONSIVE, MODERN, DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR CITIZENS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 521 of the Local Government Code mandates Congress to undertake a review of the Code every five (5) years "with the primary objective of providing a more responsive and accountable local government structure";

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the 18th Congress attempted a historical and comprehensive review and evaluation of the Code, and identified six key areas of reform, including: a) devolved services; b) standards of creation of LGUs; c) revenue sharing and taxing powers; d) balance of power; e) term of office of local officials; and f) autonomous regions;

**WHEREAS**, various critical developments after 2017 cast an urgent light on the need to evaluate the over-all framework of the Code once more and how it should be retooled to take into account the changing Filipino demographic, recent public policy changes including new Supreme Court decisions, and the new complexities of governance in an increasingly complex society;

**WHEREAS**, trends in the 2020 census, for example, revealed a significant increase in the ageing index, and in the percentage of women of reproductive age – bringing pressure to bear on local governments to provide more services for a growing elderly population, as well as reproductive health and prenatal/peri-natal services for women;

**WHEREAS**, important policy changes, specifically the 2019 Supreme Court decision in the Mandanas- Garcia petition (G.R. No. 199802/ G.R. No. 208488, April 10, 2019) and the consequent devolution of most functions and responsibilities to the local governments from the national government, renders nearly obsolete the revenue-sharing and burden-sharing framework in the LGC and demands that a closer look be taken on other sharing mechanisms and tension points between central and local;

**WHEREAS**, the passage of legislation such as the Universal Health Care Law and the Institutionalization of the 4Ps Law, considering that health and social welfare are devolved governmental functions, and the passage of the landmark law that is the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), likewise constitute significant policy changes that impact upon the operating space of LGUs;

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies,

as well as the increasing viciousness and frequency of climate-related disasters require direct, time-sensitive services, and these burdens continue to fall upon local governments;

**WHEREAS**, there remains to be a need to address the economic unevenness among LGUs in the country, where more than half of economic activity is still concentrated in the National Capital Region, CALABARZON, and Central Luzon, while the rest of the country accounts for the remainder;

**WHEREAS**, it is also imperative to review existing people's participation mechanisms in the Code to determine whether or not they are still viable platforms for exchange and dialogue and allow citizens to meaningfully participate in decision-making and policy-crafting at the local level;

**WHEREAS**, there needs to be a continuing conversation on the need to strengthen local governments and enhance their autonomy and decentralization.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE BE DIRECTED TO CONDUCT A MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 (LGC) IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 521 OF THE SAME, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING LGU AND PROVIDING A MORE RESPONSIVE, MODERN, DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR CITIZENS.**

Adopted,

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Senator*