

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



23 JAN 19 P3:11

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 435

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT ORDERS/ISSUANCES
RELATIVE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 HEALTH RELATED WASTE
DISPOSAL**

1 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated massive increase in
2 healthcare waste globally including the Philippines;

3 WHEREAS, Philippine hospitals produces more than 2.15 million tons of plastic
4 waste every year, as doctors, nurses and other medical staff had to wear all manner
5 of single-use plastics, from head covers and goggles to coveralls and shoe
6 protectors;

7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management
8 Act of 2020" requires local government down to barangay level to properly collect,
9 recycle, or dispose of trash, especially hazardous medical waste;

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued
11 Memorandum Circular No. 2020-147 addressed to all Provincial Governors, BARMM
12 Chief Ministry, City/Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors,
13 BARMM Minister of Local Government, Field Officers and others concerned, on the
14 "Guidelines on the Management of COVID-19 Related Healthcare Wastes" directing
15 said agencies to issue comprehensive information on their roles, duties, and
16 responsibilities on the proper handling and management of all COVID-19 related
17 health care wastes;

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) recognized the urgency to
19 augment COVID-19 testing by authorizing the use of self-administered antigen test
20 kits to facilitate early case detection, clinical management, and outbreak response

1 activities within local communities, posing additional challenge to Philippine waste
2 disposal management system;

3 WHEREAS, the DOH issued Department Memorandum No. 2022-0033 on the
4 "Guidelines on the Use of Self-Administered Antigen Testing for COVID-19" providing
5 guidelines for suppliers, manufacturers, and healthcare providers to offer facility,
6 online-based orientation and references which may be in the form of demonstration,
7 instructional videos, leaflets, and other formats which shall highlight the disposal of
8 the used kits to individuals availing their antigen products;

9 WHEREAS, given that antigen test kits can now be self-administered in every
10 Filipino household and are now publicly available in the Philippine market, there is a
11 need to inquire on the implementation of existing government issuances to address
12 the surge in COVID-19 waste that threatens not only the public's health but also the
13 sustainability of the country's already overburdened waste management systems;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to
15 direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation
16 on the implementation and effectiveness of existing government issuances relative
17 the management of COVID-19 health related waste disposal.

Adopted,



MARK A. VILLAR