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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 590

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING
HEAT INDEX MONITORING FOR PURPOSES OF CREATING AN EFFECTIVE
AND EFFICIENT ALERT SYSTEM SIMILAR TO ALERT SYSTEM USED
DURING OTHER CALAMITIES**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical
2 Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that the country's heat index reached
3 dangerous levels in many provinces and cities, and is expected to remain at
4 dangerous levels in the coming weeks;

5 **WHEREAS**, heat index is defined by PAGASA as the temperature that the
6 human body feels based on air temperature and relative humidity, it is thus an
7 important indicator of heat stress that affects human comfort and health;

8 **WHEREAS**, PAGASA created the heat index classification threshold to identify
9 possible health risks of excessive heat to human body;

10 **WHEREAS**, recent heat index forecast in many areas in the country have
11 been at dangerous levels posing great danger on public health, especially among
12 vulnerable groups such as children, elderly, and people with pre-existing medical
13 conditions;

14 **WHEREAS**, there has been an incident when 120 students were taken to
15 hospitals in Laguna after they fainted due to heat exhaustion during a fire drill
16 conducted at a school in Cabuyao City, among other heat-related incident reported
17 since the beginning of dry season in the country;

18 **WHEREAS**, these heat-related illnesses affect not only the public's health but
19 also the agricultural and industrial sector's productivity, ultimately affecting the
20 country's economy and social welfare;

1 **WHEREAS**, while there is an existing monitoring system for heat index, there
2 is a need to establish an alert system similar to emergency and warning alert
3 messages during typhoons to ensure that appropriate preventive measures will be
4 taken when the heat index reached dangerous levels;

5 **WHEREAS**, the Senate of the Philippines is mandated by the Constitution to
6 inquire in aid of legislation on matters of public interest especially if the life and
7 health of all Filipinos are at stake;

8 **WHEREAS**, an inquiry on the subject is necessary to determine the
9 following:

- 10 a. The current status of heat index monitoring and warning systems in
11 the country;
- 12 b. The potential impacts of extreme heat on public health and the
13 economy, including preventive and mitigation measures that can be
14 implemented;
- 15 c. The best practices and technologies on heat index monitoring and alert
16 systems in other countries;
- 17 d. The resources, legal framework, and institutional arrangements needed
18 for the establishment of a Philippine Alert System for monitoring of
19 heat index in the country;

20 **WHEREAS**, the inquiry shall include but not limited to an assessment of the
21 current state of heat index monitoring and forecasting activities in the Philippines,
22 identification of the gaps and challenges in the existing system, and
23 recommendations for the development and strengthening of an effective and
24 efficient Alert System similar to the alert level system used by the Philippines during
25 typhoons;

26 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby resolved, that the
27 appropriate Senate Committee, with the assistance of relevant government agencies
28 and stakeholders, conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation to determine the need for a
29 Philippine Alert System for the monitoring of heat index in the country.

Adopted,



MARK A. VILLAR