

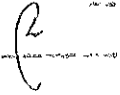
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 96

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE MANDATORY DRUG TESTING FOR DRIVER-APPLICANTS POLICY OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CORRECTING THE FLAWS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND RECOMMENDING A SYSTEM OF GRAFT-FREE TRANSPORT MEASURES

Whereas, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) is the government agency that issues valid Philippine driver's licenses;

Whereas, applicant-drivers are required to undergo drug testing from accredited private drug testing centers or clinics (DTCs) before their application for license is approved;

Whereas, the Department of Health (DOH) has the sole authority to endorse said DTCs;

Whereas, there are about 500 DOH-accredited drug testing firms in the country at present;

Whereas, drug testing companies nationwide showed that out of the 14M applicants for driver's license, only 0.006 percent or 840 applicants were found positive of using illegal drugs;

Whereas, private drug testing centers operate for profit, which puts a cloud of doubt as to the veracity and integrity of the test results;

Whereas, some drug testing centers allegedly accept bribes from applicants to yield a negative result in their drug test or issue drug test certificates without the applicant actually submitting a urine sample;

Whereas, Sec. 37, Article 3 of the Dangerous Drug Act states, "any person.... who issues false or fraudulent drug test results... shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment ranging from six years and one day to twelve years and a fine ranging from one hundred pesos to five hundred thousand pesos";

Whereas, private DTCs are currently charging each applicant between Php 250-Php 300 for the drug test;

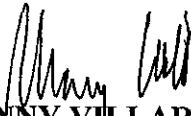
Whereas, drug-testing fee is excessive because it allegedly includes the kickback or grease money for LTO officials;

Whereas, owners and operators of DTCs themselves admit that they pay a so-called referral fee, ranging from P50.00 to P165.00 per applicant, which is collected at the LTO district level but is reportedly pocketed by agency officials and employees;

Whereas, government hospitals can offer the same drug testing service at only Php 100 per applicant; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, anent the Mandatory Drug Testing for Drivers-Applicants Policy of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) ns with the end in view of correcting the flaws in its implementation and recommending a system of graft-free transport measures.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator