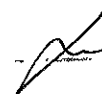


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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1204

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS POSED BY ASBESTOS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPLEMENTING SAFER AND GREENER ALTERNATIVES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

*Whereas*, asbestos is the general name for a group of rock-forming minerals that consist of extremely strong and durable fibers;

*Whereas*, asbestos is commonly used in shipping and building/construction industries, because of its strength, flexibility, resistance to fire and insulating qualities;

*Whereas*, the International Association for Research on Cancer classified asbestos as the highest cancer-hazard substance;

*Whereas*, more than a century after asbestos was first identified as a health hazard, it is still being used in consumer products according to the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO);

*Whereas*, asbestos poses high risk of contaminating exposed workers because the fibers deeply penetrated into the lungs when inhaled;

*Whereas*, respiratory diseases associated with asbestos, all fatal, are lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis with a latency period of 10 to 40 years;

*Whereas*, most vulnerable are workers in shipping (shipbuilding, ship repair, ship breaking, and boiler work) and those in building and construction (plumbers, insulators, carpenters, pipe fitters, electricians, autoworkers, insulators, sheet metal workers, and other construction workers);

*Whereas*, the general public is also at risk because of exposure to houses, buildings and workplaces built with asbestos-containing materials;

*Whereas*, sixty (60) countries (including those in the European Union) around the world have banned the use of asbestos, in whole or in part, including Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and the United States;

*Whereas*, polyvinyl alcohol fiber (PVA) has been successfully used all over the world as a safe and cheaper replacement for asbestos;

*Whereas*, other environmentally sustainable materials that can replace asbestos use are cotton fiber, cellulose and Icynene, a water-based spray polyurethane foam that can reduce energy costs annually;

*Whereas*, green options have the same beneficial qualities as asbestos, minus the health deteriorating and toxic components: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the health hazards posed by asbestos, with the end in view of implementing safer and greener alternatives to protect public health and the environment.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR  
Senator