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SENATE
P.S. Res. 135

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT A RELEVANT STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VARIOUS LAWS AND POLICIES GOVERNING APPLICATION FOR LICENSES, PERMITS AND CLEARANCES INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-COMMERCE LAW WITH THE INTENTION OF SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES, ERADICATING RED TAPE AND PROMOTING PHILIPPINE COMPETITIVENESS

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State that, “[t]he State shall maintain honesty and integrity in public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption”¹;

WHEREAS, at present the Philippines ranks 138th out of 185 countries in the world, and is eight out of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Doing Business Survey (DBS) of the World Bank International Finance Corporation (IFC)²;

WHEREAS, in a most recent study of the World Bank, it cited that “red tape is strangling interest in doing business in the Philippines” and that accordingly, “the length of time and processes involved in establishing and doing business in the country remains complicated compared with neighbors such as Hongkong, China and Singapore despite efforts to curb corruption and implement tax incentives”³;

WHEREAS, it has been reported that most government agencies have complicated and difficult bureaucratic procedures in providing services to the detriment of ordinary citizens and prospective investors;

WHEREAS, various government agencies including local governments performing business registration, issuance of permits and licenses, issuance of identification cards and clearances and similar public services have adopted independent policies in the performance of their mandates;

WHEREAS, one of the innovations in public administration is the system of electronic application and utilization of e-commerce in government transactions as provided in the E-Commerce Law of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the present leadership is committed to implement reforms by making it easier to do business in the Philippines with the issuance of Administrative Order 38 creating the Task Force on Ease of Doing Business (EODB Task Force);

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¹ The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 27

² Culled from a news article published in Sunstar, www.sunstar.com.ph, May 21, 2013

³ From a news feature in www.gmanetwork.com, December 5, 2012

WHEREAS, in the past, a ToolKit on Simplifying Business Permit and Licensing Procedures of Local Governments (2008) was drafted and utilized as guide by citizens, investors, market players and stake holders;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive assessment on various government procedures governing licenses, permits, identification and clearances is needed to serve as blueprint for effective public service, taking into consideration such approaches but not limited to:

1. One-Stop Shop or centralized agency handling various transactions for different government offices;
2. Feasibility of a single but multi-purpose identification card;
3. Prohibition on government agencies requiring multiple clearances from different agencies, to be obtained by the applicant himself/herself, before a permit, license, or other action is taken;
4. Longer effectivity dates for permits, clearances and IDs;
5. Computerization with provisions for correction of entries and remedies;
6. Limited number of signatories or steps in transactions;
7. Strengthening the E-Commerce transactions in government with strict anti-theft and other firewalls set in place to prevent abuse and fraud:

Now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES, That the Senate of the Philippines urge the appropriate Senate committee/s to conduct a relevant study, in aid of legislation, on the various laws and policies governing application for licenses, permits and clearances including the implementation of the E-Commerce Law with the intention of simplifying bureaucratic procedures, eradicating red tape and promoting Philippine competitiveness.

Adopted,


GRACE POE