



SENATE

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P. S. R. No. 234

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE ACTIONS
UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9999
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010 WITH THE END
IN VIEW OF FINALLY AFFORDING FILIPINOS THE FULL BENEFITS ENVISIONED BY
THE ACT**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9999 or the "Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010" will not only help to ensure the services of a competent and independent counsel as guaranteed by the Constitution but it goes further by affording poor litigants the opportunity to avail the services of high caliber law practitioners and big law firms for free under a mechanism of tax incentives;

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2010, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law Republic Act No 9999 or the Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010 which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2361 and House Bill No. 4301 passed by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives on January 27, 2010 and January 26, 2010, respectively;

WHEREAS, the passage of the aforementioned Act has been one of the many advocacies of this representation who diligently worked together with the other members of the 13th Congress of the Philippines towards its eventual enactment;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the aforesaid Act directs the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to formulate within a period of ninety (90) days the necessary tax regulation for the implementation of the tax component of the Act, and tasks the Supreme Court to formulate the necessary regulations to govern the services covered by the Act;

WHEREAS, more than two years have passed since, the BIR and the Supreme Court has yet to issue to necessary regulations for the implementation of Republic Act No. 9999 or the Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010, a fact that has in effect stalled the operation of a law which could have provided the poor litigants the opportunity to enjoy its much needed benefits;

WHEREAS, with the rising number of poor litigants needing of legal assistance, full implementation of this noble law should be in the offing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the Senate Committee on Justice and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry on the actions undertaken towards the implementation of Republic Act No. 9999 otherwise known as the Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010 with the end in view of finally affording Filipinos the full benefits envisioned by this act.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator