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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 773

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Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REVISED DEPARTURE GUIDELINES FOR
OVERSEAS-BOUND FILIPINOS**

1 WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) under the
2 Department of Justice (DOJ) has approved the updated guidelines concerning Filipino
3 travelers bound for international destinations aimed at preventing cases of human
4 trafficking.

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6 WHEREAS, the updated departure guidelines, which will take effect on September
7 3, have raised concerns among Filipinos, with some saying the requirements are overly
8 demanding and that the government might be infringing on people's right to travel.

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10 WHEREAS, the move to revise the guidelines comes after a series of complaints from
11 travelers who have reported missing their flights or being offloaded due to questioning
12 by Bureau of Immigration officers.

13
14 WHEREAS, the DOJ assures citizens that the 2023 Revised IACAT Guidelines on
15 Departure Formalities for Filipino Passengers Traveling Abroad will uphold the
16 constitutional right to travel.

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18 WHEREAS, the revised guidelines mandate that self-financed travelers furnish
19 supplementary documents, including a confirmed return or roundtrip ticket, evidence of
20 hotel reservation or lodging arrangements, proof of financial capability or income source,
21 and verification of employment, in addition to the customary travel prerequisites.

22
23 WHEREAS, individuals undertaking journeys sponsored by relatives or non-relatives,
24 obtaining a duly notarized affidavit of support and guarantee from a Philippine Embassy,
25 Consulate, or Honorary Consulate is obligatory.

1 WHEREAS, first-time overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) must acquire an OFW
2 clearance from the Department of Migrant Workers, as reflected in the agency's Border
3 Control Information System.

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5 WHEREAS, unaccompanied minors must present a travel clearance certificate from
6 the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

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8 WHEREAS, travelers accompanied by minors must provide a certificate of exemption
9 issued by the DSWD in cases where parents are unmarried, the accompanying adult is a
10 legal guardian, biological father with sole parental authority, or a custodian over minors
11 traveling with adoptive parents.

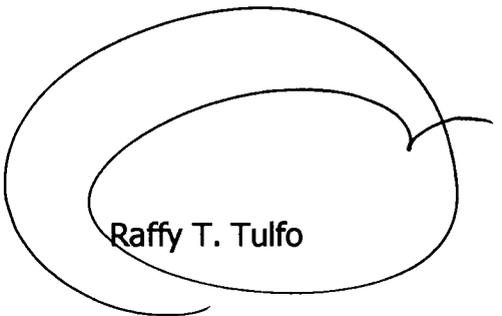
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13 WHEREAS, the guidelines also delineate circumstances under which immigration
14 officers can postpone a passenger's departure. These encompass: refusal to undergo
15 secondary inspection; suspicion surrounding the purpose of travel; inconsistencies or
16 inadequacies in travel or supporting documents; concealment or distortion of pertinent
17 travel information; presentation of fraudulent, manipulated, or falsified travel or
18 supporting documents; non-compliance with earlier deferred-departure prerequisites; or
19 suspicions of potential trafficking or illegal recruitment.

20
21 WHEREAS, the IACAT underscores that secondary inspections should conclude
22 within 15 minutes, unless exceptional circumstances necessitate a lengthier scrutiny. The
23 15-minute timeframe will commence at the initiation of the interview conducted by the
24 secondary inspection officer.

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26 WHEREAS, the IACAT expresses the significance of adhering to these guidelines, not
27 merely as administrative procedures but as an embodiment of their commitment to
28 safeguarding the rights and welfare of fellow Filipinos.

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30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate
31 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the revised departure
32 guidelines for overseas-bound Filipinos.

Adopted,



Raffy T. Tulfo