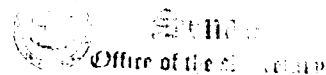


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



24 MAR -6 A10:16

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 953

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**A RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROPRIETY OF ALLOWING  
CIVILIANS TO OWN SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

**WHEREAS**, on 29 May 2013, Republic Act 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act was signed into law. In Section 2 thereof, it is declared that it is the "*policy of the State to maintain peace and order and protect the people against violence. The State also recognizes the right of its qualified citizens to self-defense through, when it is the reasonable means to repel the unlawful aggression under the circumstances, the use of firearms*";

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of R.A. 10591 furthermore provides that the "*State shall provide for a comprehensive law regulating the ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture, dealing in and importation of firearms, ammunition, or parts thereof, in order to provide legal support to law enforcement agencies in their campaign against crime, stop the proliferation of illegal firearms or weapons and the illegal manufacture of firearms or weapons, ammunition and parts thereof*";

**WHEREAS**, under Section 10 of R.A. 10591, only small arms may be registered by licensed citizens or licensed juridical entities for ownership, possession and concealed carry. In turn, Section 3 (dd) of the same law defines small arms as handguns, rifles, and shotguns that are "primarily designed for individual use" and which are not capable of fully automatic bursts of discharge;

**WHEREAS**, the law aims to address the proliferation of loose firearms, especially that PNP data revealed that most crimes were perpetrated using guns. During that time, officials estimated that there were around 400,000 loose guns in the country;

**WHEREAS**, on 17 April 2018, the Philippine National Police ("PNP") issued the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 10591. Under Section 3.66 (b) thereof, rifles are classified as small arms only if they are intended for sport shooting;

**WHEREAS**, despite the general prohibition on owning high-powered rifles under R.A. 10591 and its revised implementing rules and regulations, such weapons continue to proliferate. For instance, on 18 November 2023, thirteen (13) high-powered firearms were seized in Makati City;

**WHEREAS**, high-powered weapons were recently used in the commission of robberies, murders and other grave crimes. In one incident which took place on 25 November 2023, four (4) men with various high-powered firearms robbed a pawnshop and jewelry store along Colon Street in Cebu City;

**WHEREAS**, earlier in 2023, high-powered firearms were used in the murder of Governor Roel Degamo and five other persons. High-powered weapons were also recovered from the suspects in the ambush of Governor Mamintal Adiong;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the rampant use of high-powered firearms by lawless elements and their seemingly ready-access thereto, it was reported on 5 March 2024 that the PNP will allow civilians to own and register 7.62 mm semi-automatic rifles;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to ascertain the possible impact of allowing citizens to own high-powered rifles and whether such rifles are reasonably necessary for citizens to defend themselves from unlawful aggression;

**WHEREAS**, there is likewise a need to examine whether allowing private citizens to own high-powered rifles is consistent with the policy of the State to maintain peace and order and to protect the people against violence;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE**, that the appropriate Senate Committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the propriety of allowing civilians to own semi-automatic rifles.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**