

SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 28

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Introduced by Sen. Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES ON SECURING DIFFERENT TYPES OF PERMITS AND LICENSES WITH THE END VIEW OF STREAMLINING BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSES, LESSEN IF NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATE RED TAPE AND ULTIMATELY DEVELOP A "FEES BOOK" OR A UNIVERSAL GUIDE TO ALL THESE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THOSE WHO TRANSACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Article II of the Constitution says, "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, it is a mandatory rule in public offices to provide prompt and adequate services to the public as mandated by various laws on ethical standards that should be observed by government officials and employees;

WHEREAS, the government bureaucracy, particularly agencies that are responsible for the grant of various permits and licenses to the public, is saddled with complaints of inefficiency, corruption and red tape;

WHEREAS, as proof of this inefficiency, both perceived and actual, the Philippines languished in the bottom third of the 2009 World Competitive Ranking and dubbed as the least competitive country in the Asia Pacific, sliding to the 43rd spot out of 57 economies evaluated in the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) in terms of economic performance, government efficiency and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, even a World Bank study found it extremely difficult to do business in the country, saying that 15 different procedures are required for starting a business, which can be completed at an average of 52 days;

WHEREAS, the same study said it would take 24 different procedures if one would wish to build a house, while securing the necessary and required construction permits as well as tapping to basic utilities most of the time take over 200 days to complete;

WHEREAS, one need not look further in recognizing that governmental procedures are a burden to the public as people suffer hours in long lines just to secure a driver's license, a police or NBI clearance, a taxpayer's identification or a social security number and a certified true copy of a birth certificate, among others;

WHEREAS, these burdensome government procedures continue to provide relevance to the proverbial "fixer" and influence peddler who take advantage of these bureaucratic complications to corrupt public officers and make these transactions even more expensive to the people;

WHEREAS, in line with President Benigno Aquino III's inaugural statement "Kayo ang Boss ko," referring to the duty of those in government to serve the people, there is a need to streamline governmental processes in order to be more responsive to the needs of the public and make them work for their welfare;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to enact laws that will curb, if not totally eliminate, bureaucratic red tape and simplify government procedures in order to make the country more competitive;

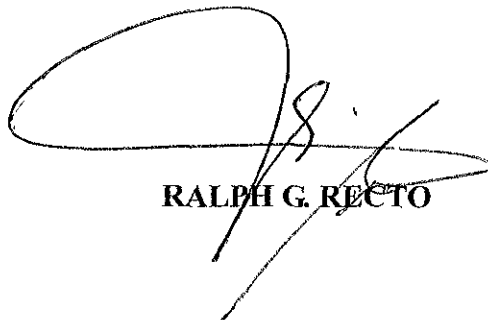
WHEREAS, corollary to this duty is Congress's responsibility to promote the welfare of the people by easing the burdens of transacting with the government;

WHEREAS, although there is a wide array of fees that are collected in these transactions that include a long list of procedures that needs to be completed, the government has not come up with a universal guide to these transactions to ease the burden of the people who, in order to avoid inconvenience in most cases, fall prey to fixers and influence peddlers;

WHEREAS, this "Fees Book" can serve as the people's guide to doing business with the government, empowering them with the right and accurate information as well as arming them with knowledge of their rights, duties and responsibilities in every facet of governmental operations;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into governmental procedures on securing different types of permits and licenses with the end view of streamlining bureaucratic processes, lessen if not totally eliminate red tape and ultimately develop a "Fees Book" or a universal guide to all these transactions for the benefit of all those who transact with the government.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO