

2011 - THE PHILIPPINES

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 715

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON DEFINING THE CHARACTER AND MANDATE  
OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

WHEREAS, The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) was established early last century as a bureau and later placed under the Bureau of Customs during the Commonwealth era;

WHEREAS, in 1967, Congress enacted a law making the PCG a major unit of the Philippine Navy under the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree 601, issued in 1974, placed the PCG under the supervision of the Department of National Defense;

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) 475 issued in 1998 transferred the PCG to the Office of the President, and EO 477 subsequently transferred it to the Transportation department;

WHEREAS, various news reports last 19 October 2008 on the organization's 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary said that leaders of the PCG are seeking for a measure that will define the agency's character and mandate, saying that their work is difficult because they don't know how much authority they have;

WHEREAS, in the same reports, the Department of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that the PCG "is not military or civilian and that it does not even have a definite organizational structure";

WHEREAS, public officials are considering giving PCG more capabilities and responsibilities such as ensuring environmental protection like going after perpetrators of illegal fishing, providing assistance to the maritime industry and anti-smuggling efforts, and improving its involvement in rescue operations during sea tragedies and natural disasters like typhoons;

WHEREAS, PCG officials suggested that the agency follow the model of the United States Coast Guard, which is a military agency but civilian in nature during peacetime;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on defining the character and mandate of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO