



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 288

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENHANCING ITS PROVISIONS TO MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING LOCAL AUTONOMY, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

WHEREAS, *Article II, Section 25* of the *Constitution* mandates that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments;

WHEREAS, *Republic Act No. 7160* or the *Local Government Code of 1991* ("Code") was enacted for the purpose of giving genuine and meaningful autonomy to the local government units (LGUs) and enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities;

WHEREAS, in the course of implementing the Code over the last 25 years, it has not been evaluated as mandated by *Section 521*¹ thereof, which requires Congress to undertake a review of its provisions at least once every five (5) years;

¹ **Section 521. Mandatory Review Every Five Years.** - Congress shall undertake a mandatory review of this Code at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, with the primary objective of providing a more responsive and accountable local government structure.

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government (“DILG”) has, however, taken significant steps to improve and foster transparency and accountability in local governance practices through programs such as the *DILG – Local Government Sector Outcome Framework*, the *Performance Challenge Fund for Local Government Units*, and the *Comprehensive and Unified Response to Eliminate (CURE) Red Tape in Local Governments*, to name a few;

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, the current setup of local governments has resulted to critical issues on unequal sharing of wealth, devolution, term limits, and overlapping of functions resulting to wastage of resources;

WHEREAS, in February 2014, the Asian Development Bank (“ADB”), in support of local government finance and fiscal decentralization reforms in the country, approved a \$250-million loan under the Local Government Finance and Fiscal Decentralization Reform Program (“ADB Program”) for the government to study changes in the Code;²

WHEREAS, in 2014, the DILG, through the inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Decentralization and the ADB Program, facilitated participative and thorough dialogues among key stakeholders to discuss the review of the Code;

WHEREAS, considering that the effectiveness of the Code has been overtaken by changing times, the Code must be reviewed to make it attuned to current evolving issues that LGUs face;

WHEREAS, the review of the provisions of the Code will help LGUs in fully apprising Congress about the various challenges that they face in the exercise of their devolved functions; and

WHEREAS, it is hoped that with the review of the Code, as mandated by Section 521 thereof, we can continue to unlock and unleash the potentials of LGUs leading to the development of our nation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S) BE

² Retrieved from: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-assist-review-philippines-local-government-code>; Retrieved on: September 26, 2016.

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Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III