

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

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 205

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF TEXT
SCAMS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Section 24, Article II of the 1987 Constitution and Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10175, or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, provide that the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information industries such as content production, telecommunications, broadcasting electronic commerce, and data processing, in the nation's overall social and economic development;

WHEREAS, Section 3 (1), Article III of the 1987 Constitution further provides that the privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court, or when public safety or order requires otherwise, as prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming increase in the number of text scams and spams targeting the general public. Some consumers have been victims of fraud scams and attacks that resulted in compromised transaction accounts and fund losses. The Bankers Association of the Philippines reported that the unauthorized withdrawals and transfers reached more than Php1 Billion in 2021;

WHEREAS, on 26 November 2021, an inter-agency group, headed by the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center, was formed in response to the increase in fraudulent messages. However, despite the inter-agency group's creation, the proliferation of spam texts and SMS phishing has persisted and evolved with the latest variant which already included the name of the mobile number user;

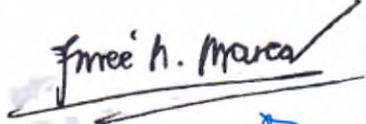
WHEREAS, according to an online news article, mobile telecommunications and broadband provider Globe Telecom Inc. (Globe) reported that it has blocked over

138 million spam and scam text messages from January to June 15, 2022. Globe has also deactivated a total of 12,877 mobile numbers after being reported for spam through its "stop spam" web portal;

WHEREAS, there is a need to regulate the sale and distribution of SIM cards in order to prevent the proliferation of these mobile phone scams and data breaches in the country and protect the public's constitutional right to privacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the proliferation of text scams in the country with the end view of proposing a legislative measure mandating the registration of mobile SIM cards.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS