

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 100 556



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A MANDATORY REVIEW OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 521, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND PROVIDING A MORE RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, RELEVANT, AND PARTICIPATORY LOCAL GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Section 521 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, provides that "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 LGC is considered as one of the most revolutionary pieces of legislations that the Philippine Congress has passed as it has radically transformed the very nature of the country's political and administrative system and empowered the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays throughout the country by placing upon them, as frontline institutions of public service, the responsibility for developing their respective territories;

WHEREAS, numerous critical developments had transpired since the LGC was enacted, which necessitates the need to evaluate its general framework and how it must be retooled to take into account the changing Filipino demographic, public policy changes, and the new complexities of governance in a constantly changing and intricate society;

WHEREAS, no less than the late Senator Aquilino "Nene" Q. Pimentel, Jr, who is acknowledged as the Father of Local Autonomy and principal author of the LGC, acknowledge several years ago the urgency of a second wave of reforms in the form of amendments to the LGC to address the problems and challenges in local governance that confront local executives;

WHEREAS, trends in the 2020 census revealed a significant increase in the ageing index and in the percentage of women of reproductive age - bringing pressure to bear on local governments to provide more services for a growing elderly population, as well as reproductive health and prenatal and perinatal services for women;

WHEREAS, essential policy changes, particularly the 2019 Supreme Court decision in the Mandanas-Garcia petition (G.R. No. 199802/ G.R. No. 208488, April 10, 2019) and the consequent devolution of most functions and responsibilities to the local governments (LGUs) from the national government, renders nearly obsolete the revenue-sharing and burden-sharing framework in the LGC and demands that a closer look be taken on other sharing mechanisms and tension points between the national and local government;

WHEREAS, the enactment of the landmark Universal Health Care (UHC) Act (Republic Act No. 11223) and Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act", in the context of a devolved health and social welfare functions of government, including the passage of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the "Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao", serve as significant policy changes that made enormous impact upon the operating space of LGUs;

WHEREAS, the combined viciousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies and the worsening climate-related disasters require direct and immediate services, which fall upon the shoulders of LGUs;

WHEREAS, it is also about time to address the perennial problem of disparity in financial resources among LGUs and to review existing people's participation mechanisms to determine whether or not they are still viable platforms for exchange and dialogue and allow citizens to meaningfully participate in decision-making and policy-crafting at the local level;

WHEREAS, more than thirty (30) years since its enactment, there needs to be a sensible conversation on the need to strengthen LGUs and enhance their capacity to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities through genuine and meaningful local autonomy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Local Government to conduct a mandatory review of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, in compliance with Section 521, with the end in view of empowering local government units (LGUs) and providing a more responsive, accountable, relevant, and participatory local governance.

Adopted,



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