

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

RE

BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 699

Introduced by Senator AQUILINO "KOKO" L. PIMENTEL III

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENT AND OTHER PERTINENT
COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
PROLIFERATION OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL FORMS OF
GAMBLING AND ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT
ON THE PEOPLE, AND ON THE SPROUTING OF
CASINOS AND INTERNET GAMBLING SITES
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree 1869, otherwise known as the charter of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), has given unto PAGCOR the task of centralizing and regulating the operation and conduct of games of chance, "to minimize, if not totally eradicate, the evils, malpractices and corruptions that are normally prevalent in the conduct and operation of gambling clubs and casinos without direct government involvement";

WHEREAS, PD 1869 also lays down the additional goals of PAGCOR to operate and regulate gambling activities to generate sources of additional revenue to fund infrastructure and socio-civic projects, and provide recreation and integrated facilities which will expand and improve the country's existing tourist attractions;

WHEREAS, the extension of the corporate life of PAGCOR through Republic Act 9487 has reiterated these goals of minimizing the adverse effects of gambling while

maximizing the benefits that gambling activities could provide to the State;

WHEREAS, there has been an undeniable increase in gambling operations, both legal and illegal, in our country, which necessitates an investigation into the state of regulation of gambling to ensure that the goals of minimizing the adverse effects of gambling while maximizing its benefits to the State could be realized;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to inquire into the adverse effects of the proliferation of gambling in the country, especially to the youth;

WHEREAS, there have already been reports of gambling-related violence in some parts of the country, which hint of rivalries among big-time gambling operators and could lead to the deterioration of law and order;

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in the number of casinos and Internet gambling sites even in residential areas, and there is a need to look into the legality of these new casinos and Internet gambling sites because these are in apparent contravention of the charter of PAGCOR, which stipulates that "the operation of slot machines and other gambling paraphernalia and equipment, shall not be allowed in establishments open or accessible to the general public unless the site of these operations are three-star hotels and resorts accredited by the Department of Tourism authorized by the corporation and by the local government unit concerned";

WHEREAS, there is also a need to investigate whether the casinos and Internet gambling sites are in accord with the local zoning laws and are complying with other legal requirements imposed by local governments upon gambling operations;

WHEREAS, the presence of these Internet gambling sites in residential communities do not redound to the promotion of tourism as these residential areas are not tourist spots,

and, instead, encourage gambling among residents where these sites are present;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENT AND OTHER PERTINENT COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN THE COUNTRY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE, AS WELL AS INTO THE SPROUTING OF CASINOS AND INTERNET GAMBLING SITES EVEN IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, AND FIND OUT HOW THE STATE'S POLICY OF STRICT REGULATION OVER GAMBLING ACTIVITIES TO MINIMIZE THEIR ILL EFFECTS ON THE PEOPLE WHILE MAXIMIZING THEIR BENEFITS TO THE STATE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.

Adopted,


Sen. Aquilino "Koko" L. Pimentel III