

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 689



Introduced by: **HONORABLE ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES**

**A RESOLUTION URGING AIRLINE COMPANIES TO GIVE DUE
CONSIDERATION TO ALL PASSENGERS WHO BOOKED FLIGHTS TO
FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITH CONFIRMED CASES OF NOVEL CORONA VIRUS
(2019-nCoV)**

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates that "[T]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;¹

WHEREAS, of the three fundamental powers of the State, the exercise of police power has been considered as "the most essential, insistent and the least limitable of powers, extending as it does to all the great public needs."²

WHEREAS, when the conditions so demand as determined by the Legislature, property rights must give way to the primacy of police power since "property rights, though sheltered by due process, must yield to general welfare."³

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization announced that it was declaring the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a "public health emergency," setting in motion a plan for global coordination to stem the spread of the virus, which originated last December 2019 in Wuhan, China.⁴

WHEREAS, Chinese officials announced more than 3,100 new cases of the coronavirus, as the total number of people infected in China reached 9,720 as of 31 January 2020, including nine (9) cases in the self-governing island of Taiwan;⁵

WHEREAS, cases of 2019-nCoV have already been confirmed in Italy, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Nepal, Cambodia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam,

¹ Section 15, Article II, The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

² *Planters Products, Inc. v. Fertiphil Corporation*, G.R. No. 166006, 14 March 2008.

³ *Southern Luzon Drug Corporation v. Department of Social Welfare and Development*, G.R. No. 199669, 25 April 2017.

⁴ Live updates: World Health Organization declares coronavirus outbreak a 'public health emergency' available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-coronavirus-live-updates/2020/01/30/1da6ea52-4302-11ea-b5fc-eefa848cde99_story.html (last accessed 31 January 2020).

⁵ *Id.*

1 Taiwan, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, Germany, Finland and Sri Lanka.⁶ In the
2 Philippines, the first case of infection was confirmed by the Department of Health
3 (DoH) on 30 January 2020;⁷
4



5 **WHEREAS**, amid fears of the spread of the deadly 2019-nCoV, passengers
6 who previously booked flights bound to foreign countries with confirmed cases are left
7 with no prudent choice but to cancel their bookings;
8

9 **WHEREAS**, this voluntary cancellation of flights to foreign countries with
10 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV is beneficial to the country as a whole since it helps
11 mitigate the public health threat posed by the said virus;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, passengers who cancel bookings are usually charged with
14 cancellation charges and penalties depending on the fare type;
15

16 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House
17 of Representatives to urge airline companies to waive cancellation fees and give due
18 consideration to all passengers who booked flights to foreign countries with confirmed
19 cases of novel corona virus (2019-NCOV).
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22 Adopted,
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HON. ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES 
Representative
3rd District, Quezon City

⁶ *Id.*
⁷ DOH confirms first case of nCoV in Philippines available at
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/01/31/1989260/doh-confirms-first-case-ncov-philippines> (last
accessed 31 January 2020).