

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 104
May 3, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HB 4271	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Banning traditional, small-scale, community incineration ("siga") and amending the provisions of RA 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), and increasing the penalty for burning of solid waste, amending RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), approved HB 4271.
	HB 2286	Rep. Marquez	Repealing Section 20 of RA 8749 and amending certain provisions of RA 9003	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2286 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Aklan Rep. Carlito Marquez, author of HB 2286, explained the need to repeal Section 20 of RA 8749, which prohibits the use of incineration as a mode of waste disposal in the country.</p> <p>Convinced of the benefits of waste incineration, Rep. Marquez said his bill paves the way for the establishment of waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities that will have safety features and are environmentally-sound. He added that WTE facilities are a sustainable solution to the perennial solid waste problem in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities in the country.</p> <p>Rene Pineda Jr., president of the Citizens' Organization Concerned with Advocating Philippine Environmental Sustainability (COCAP), argued that any amendment to the existing environmental laws is disadvantageous to the country. He stressed that RA 9003 has been lauded all over the world to be one of the best environmental laws ever promulgated by a country, but unfortunately, its provisions are not properly enforced.</p> <p>Sonia Mendoza, chairperson of Mother Earth Foundation (MEF), warned that WTE facilities are not 100% safe citing the environmental catastrophies experienced by other more developed countries due to problems associated with incinerators.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) opined that the intent of HB 2286 is consistent with RA 9003 which is to reduce, reuse, recover and recycle solid waste, particularly on the disposal of residual wastes comprising 20 to 25 percent of</p>

Continuation... Ecology				<p>Metro Manila's garbage.</p> <p>On the other hand, Undersecretary Noel Felongco of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) asked the support of the Committee in its bid to augment the annual budget of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC-DENR) to enable it to fully implement its programs pursuant to RA 9003.</p>
Labor and Employment	HB 5018	Speaker Alvarez	Ensuring the employees' right of their wages, including wage-related benefits, and social security and welfare benefits, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, author of HB 356, informed the Committee that she filed a similar bill during the 15th and 16th Congresses which seeks to protect private sector minimum wage earners by increasing the penalty imposed on employers for non-compliance with the minimum wage requirement.</p>
	HB 356	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Increasing the penalties for non-compliance with the government prescribed minimum wages, amending for the purpose Section 12 of RA 6727, otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act, as amended	<p>Presenting HB 5018 in behalf of the author, Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), Rep. Ting said the bill imposes penalties for non-payment of prescribed wages and benefits of employees.</p> <p>Reps. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte) and Mark Go (Baguio City) urged concerned government agencies to properly monitor and enforce strict compliance by employers with labor laws.</p> <p>National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Commissioner Isabel Ortiguerra confirmed the manifestation made by AKBAYAN Party-List Rep. Tom Villarin that workers are afraid to file complaints against their employers for non-compliance with the minimum wage law for fear of losing their jobs.</p> <p>Ortiguerra said that the NLRC is continuously monitoring the employers' compliance with judgments or decisions on cases concerning the payment of appropriate wages. He added that the NLRC also conducts reconciliation and mediation conferences to solve labor and management disputes.</p> <p>National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) Deputy Executive Director Patricia Hornilla admitted that the NWPC lacks the manpower to effectively monitor compliance of employers with the minimum wage law, adding that its labor laws compliance officers (LLCOs) can only inspect 15% of the total 937,554 establishments nationwide every year.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao suggested to NWPC to deputize members of organized labor groups to help in monitoring compliance with the minimum wage law.</p> <p>Rep. Ting asked concerned agencies to</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>strengthen their information dissemination campaign in order to better inform the employees of their rights and privileges.</p> <p>Representatives from the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), <i>Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal</i> (SALIGAN), Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), and Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The DOLE, NLRC and NWPC were requested to submit the documents requested by the Members of the Committee for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 2617	Rep. Umali	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Isla Communications Co., (Islacom) presently known as Innove Communications, Inc., amending for the purpose RA 7372, or the law granting the Islacom a franchise to install, operate and maintain telecommunications services within the territory of the Republic of the Philippines and international points	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 2617 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4515	Rep. Oaminal	Granting Ignite Telecommunications, Incorporated a franchise to construct, install, operate, and maintain telecommunications system throughout the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4515 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4657	Rep. Lobregat	Granting the Golden Nation Network Inc. a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations within the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4657 with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4658	Rep. Lobregat	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Ermita Electronics Incorporated (presently known as G. Telecoms Inc.), amending for the purpose RA 8196 or the law granting the Ermita Electronics Incorporated a franchise to construct, install, establish, maintain, and operate radio communications systems in the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 4658.
	HB 4136	Rep. Salimbangon	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC) under RA 7816, or the law granting the MBC a franchise to construct, operate and maintain commercial television and radio broadcasting stations within the Philippines	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 4136 as amended.
	HB 2045	Rep. Sacdalan	Granting separate legislative franchise to Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO-PPALMA) to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users in six municipalities of the Province of	The Committee approved HB 2045 subject to the submission of a letter from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) supporting COTELCO-PPALMA's application as a separate and distinct cooperative from COTELCO-Main.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises			Cotabato, namely: Pikit, Pigcawayan, Alosan, Libungan, Midsayap, and Alamada; and its neighboring suburbs	Cotabato), author of HB 2045, said that granting a separate legislative franchise to COTELCO-PPALMA will address the power shortage problems in North Cotabato. Atty. Mildred Ople, representative of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), expressed support for the bill.
	HBs 5200 & 5217	Reps. Arenas and Ermita-Buhain	Renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Bright Star Broadcasting Network Corporation under RA 7295 or the law granting the Bright Star Broadcasting Network Corporation a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain for commercial purposes radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines	The Committee approved to consolidate HBs 5200 and 5217. The Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill. Earlier, Rep. Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain (1st District, Batangas), author of HB 5217, proposed that her bill be consolidated with HB 5200, authored by Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3 rd District, Pangasinan), since the two have similar subject matter. The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), through Broadcasting Division Chief Alvin Bernard Blanco, gave its support for the bill. However, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) General Counsel Camilo Correa disclosed that Bright Star failed to file its financial statements for the years 2011 and 2013 to 2016. Correa urged Bright Star to submit its financial statements and pay the penalties for its failure to comply with the requirements of SEC. On the query of COOP NATCCO Party-List Rep. Anthony Bravo regarding the company's application for frequency expansion, Bright Star Corporate Secretary Carmelo Mendoza answered that the company has a pending application with the NTC to operate nationwide. Blanco said that the NTC has already assigned the frequency being applied for by Bright Star to other applicants that have already complied with all the requirements.
Transportation	HBs 168, 174, 263, 582, 1203, 2101, 2276, 2983, 2300, 3954, 4212, 4992 & 5165	Reps. Velasco-Catera, Nograles (J.J.), Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Sarmiento (C.), Calixto-Rubiano, Velasco, Antonio, Castelo, Vargas, and Zarate	Promoting sustainable transportation system and alternative modes of transportation and other mobility options, including the establishment of bicycle lanes, to improve air quality, increase efficiency, reduce congestion, and contribute to positive health impacts in our society	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the 13 bills. Rep. Sarmiento underscored the importance of promoting alternative modes of transportation, such as the use of bicycle and walking which do not rely on dwindling resources, taking into account the safety of bikers and pedestrians, especially those with special needs. Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) Environmental Social Planning Service head Rosemarie del Rosario expressed her support for the proposed law. Del Rosario informed the Committee that the DPWH is currently studying the proposal of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to include the construction of a 4-meter sidewalk and a 4-meter bike lane as a component of new road projects, as a prerequisite

Continuation... Transportation				<p>for the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) head of the Physical Planning and Special Development Service Michael Gison interposed no objection to the bills. He said that the MMDA is in fact continuously conducting clearing operations of pathways in Metro Manila which can be used for pedestrian and biking lanes.</p> <p>On the proposal of Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila) to include electric-run vehicles within the scope of the proposed law, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante said that the LTO will have to determine first to which category these vehicles belong.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HBs 1952, 1996, 2152, 2294, 2542, 2817 & 4627	Reps. Santos-Recto, Tan (A.) Pineda, Acop, Pimentel, Suansing (E.), and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Extending the validity period of a driver's license	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the seven bills.</p> <p>Galvante expressed support for the proposed law. He informed the Committee that the LTO, beginning October this year, will be issuing driver's license with five-year validity period pursuant to Section 23 of RA 4136.</p> <p>Section 23 (Issuance of Driver's License, Fees and Validity) of RA 4136 provides in part that "any holder of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who has not committed any violation during the three-year period shall be entitled to a renewal of such license for a five-year period."</p> <p>However, Rep. Sarmiento stressed that a law is needed to serve as a clear legal basis for the issuance of a driver's license with five-year validity period, noting that the issuance of such under Section 23 of RA 4136 is conditional.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 1319	Rep. Velarde	Requiring the use of child restraint (safety car seat) device or system for children riding in running motor vehicles	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to further deliberate on HB 1319.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HB 4774	Rep. Cua	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the report of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the substitute bill on the tax reform package, which used HB 4774 or the TRAIN Act as basis.</p> <p>The substitute bill also covered 54 similar bills, namely, HBs 20, 35, 39, 57, 103, 137, 183, 292, 295, 333, 362, 363, 403, 411, 466, 562, 997, 1000, 1002, 1272, 1326, 1522, 1536, 1601, 1604,</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				1656, 1657, 1660, 1696, 1705, 1803, 1945, 1950, 2140, 2154, 2168, 2347, 2427, 2544, 2599, 2600, 2601, 3259, 3327, 3360, 3668, 3720, 3734, 3741, 4068, 4134, 4299, 4696, and 4688. The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations, for its concurrence with the appropriations provisions.
	HB 5089	Rep. Tiangco	Withdrawing all tax exemptions and incentives granted to all telecommunications services company with legislative franchise	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 5089 and 5444 in another meeting. At the outset, Navotas City Rep. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco said that his bill, HB 5089, proposes to withdraw all the tax exemptions and incentives granted to telecommunications companies (telcos) with a 25-year legislative franchise.
	HB 5444	Deputy Speaker Garin	Re-imposing franchise tax on telephone, telegraph and telecommunications entities, amending for the purpose Sections 108 (A) and 119 of RA 8424 or the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997	On the query of Rep. Cua if it is possible to impose both the value-added tax (VAT) and franchise tax to telcos, Bureau of Internal Revenue-Large Taxpayers Services (BIR-LTS) Chief Greg Buhain said it may constitute double taxation. Representatives from SMART/Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Globe Telecom said that they do not enjoy tax exemptions and incentives, pointing out that aside from paying the VAT, their companies also pay taxes such as real estate tax, customs tax, and the local franchise tax. The Department of Finance (DOF) and the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) were requested to study policy alternatives to the proposed law.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation (Justice)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 162, 327, 435, 1305, 1697 & 3005	Reps. Belmonte (F.), Romualdo, Escudero, Bataoil, Rodriguez (M.), and Castelo	Creating the Commission on Immigration, defining its powers and functions, expanding, rationalizing and further professionalizing its organization, upgrading the compensation and benefits of its officials and employees, and appropriating funds therefor	The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting. Rep. Batocabe inquired on the current situation at the Bureau of Immigration (BI), particularly its workforce, after the Bureau was no longer allowed to use the funds collected from airport express lanes for the overtime pay of its employees. BI Commissioner Jaime Morente reported that 43 immigration officers have already resigned to look for better-paying jobs and others have gone on leave. He added that the BI has requested the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to provide the employees with some form of economic relief to mitigate the impact of the disallowance.

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation (Justice)</p>				<p>DBM's Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau Director Ryan Lita informed the Committee that the DBM has already approved the creation of more than 900 positions in the BI to address the situation.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) insisted that the creation of additional positions does not immediately address the problems and risks caused by BI's crippled operations at the country's airports and ports. She added that the filling up of positions will require time in view of recruitment processes that have to be observed.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Garcia requested the DBM to take immediate action to ensure the smooth operations of the BI while the proposed Immigration Bill undergoes the scrutiny of Congress.</p> <p>Reps. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) and Anthony Bravo (Party-List, COOP NATCCO) concurred with the position of Deputy Speaker Garcia, citing the security risk that the situation poses to the country.</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe underscored the need to review Section 7 of the bill, granting powers and functions to the Commissioner of the proposed Commission on Immigration, as against Section 10 which prescribes the powers and functions of the Board of Commissioners. He opined that the Commissioner is vested with too much power compared to the Board.</p> <p>The BI was requested to submit to the Subcommittee its recommendations to solve the issues raised during the meeting.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agrarian Reform (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 114 & 3051	Reps. Baguilat and Bag-ao	Mandating the completion of the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) pursuant to RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, approved the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 114 and 3051 with amendment.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
Technical Working Group/Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Ways and Means)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4774	Rep. Cua	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG)/Ad Hoc Subcommittee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the draft substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Likewise, issues not resolved by the TWG will</p>

Continuation... Technical Working Group/Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Ways and Means)				<p>be elevated to the mother Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua stressed that a law providing for a sufficient tax reform package is needed to significantly reduce poverty incidence in the country.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

OTHER MATTERS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Labor and Employment	<p>Committee Resolution requesting the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through the Honorable Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez for additional plantilla positions for labor laws compliance officers (LLCOs) in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for the effective enforcement of compliance by private establishments with labor laws</p> <p>Committee Resolution appealing to the Honorable Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez to request the DBM for additional plantilla positions for the Committee Secretariat of the Committee on Labor and Employment</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), adopted the resolution and agreed to transmit the same to the Office of the Speaker.</p> <p>The Committee adopted the resolution and agreed to transmit the same to the Office of the Speaker.</p>
Transportation	Report on the Roll-on, Roll-off (RoRo) inspection conducted by the House of Representatives from March 16 to 27, 2017 in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, reported the outcome of the 11-day Western and Eastern Nautical Highway Expedition of the House contingent held from March 16 to March 27, 2017 for the purpose of assessing the adequacy, efficiency and safety of the country's land and sea routes. He said that the Committee will soon come up with an official report on this expedition.</p> <p>This first-ever RORO inspection is envisioned to improve the safety and convenience of the commuters, provide the needed infrastructures, and encourage economic growth in the countryside by boosting the tourism industry.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that he has already sent written communications to the LTFRB, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) regarding the inputs that may serve as basis for executive and legislative action to come up with the needed infrastructure programs.</p> <p>In addition, Rep. Sarmiento said that he filed HR 940 calling on the LTFRB, MARINA, PPA and other concerned agencies to undertake appropriate action to improve the RORO system.</p>