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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 3577, 983, 1966,2655, 3130, 3579, 3801, 4181, 4183, 4542 & 4626	Reps. Suansing (E.), Fortun, Campos, Revilla, Macapagal-Arroyo, Castelo, Tambunting, Rodriguez (M.), and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Regulating the production, importation, sale, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling and disposal of plastic products	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District, Davao City), approved the Substitute Bill to the 11 bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 45, 743, 1371, 1372, 1373, 2486, 2487, 4539 & 5019	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), Rodriguez (M.), and Speaker Alvarez	Providing for early voting for qualified senior citizens and persons with disabilities in national and local elections	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the nine bills with amendments.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 760, 761, 765, 875, 888, 899, 1340, 1662, 1805, 2512, 2928, 3105, 3358, 3564, 3643 & 3967	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Espina, Tan (A.), Villaraza-Suarez, Villafuerte, Angara-Castillo, Eriguel, Montoro, Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Baguilat, Rodriguez (M.), and Antonio	Strengthening the national and local health and nutrition programs for pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, infants and young children in the first 1,000 days, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 16 bills with amendment. Rep. Nograles proposed that the initial funding provided for under Section 13 of the bill shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Health (DOH).
	Substitute Bill to HBs 37, 189, 294, 526, 558, 1053, 1197, 1887, 1943, 2133, 2150, 2247, 2251, 2812, 2857, 2880, 2902, 3013, 3119, 3151, 3302, 3505, 3589, 3595, 3853, 4056, 4162, 4170	Reps. Yap (A.), Bravo (A.), Suansing (H.), Garbin, Casilao, Antonino, Loyola, Estrella, Santos-Recto, Villafuerte, Pineda, Panganiban, Dalipe, Yu, Tan (A.), Oaminal, Tupas, Geron, Fortuno, Alejano, Villanueva,	Strengthening assistance to all farmers by providing free irrigation service fee and all other similar or related fees or charges, amending for the purpose certain provisions of RAs 3601 and 8435, and PDs 552 and 1702, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 29 bills with amendments.

Continuation... Appropriations	& 4358	Primicias-Agabas, Suansing (E.), Salon, Chavez, Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Unabia, and Pimentel		
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, 3442, 3617, 3712, 3716, 4334 & 4699, and HR 119	Majority Leader Fariñas, Reps. Yap (A.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Castelo, Revilla, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Tambunting, Primicias-Agabas, Escudero, Belmonte (J.C.), Salceda, Gonzales (A.D.), Speaker Alvarez, Rep. Antonio, and Deputy Speaker Abu	Traffic Crisis Act of 2017 <i>Makiisa, Makisama, Magkaisa</i>	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 15 measures with amendments, among which are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a new paragraph under Section 9 to read as follows: "The component local government units (LGUs) of Metropolitan Cebu and Davao City shall set aside funds from any available revenue to fund the creation of the Cebu Coordinating Council and the Metropolitan Davao Traffic Administrator;" • Include the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance in the composition of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) under Section 11; and • Delete the provision under Section 39 (b) which allocates 10% of the national government's share in the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) annual aggregate gross earnings to implement this proposed law.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5180, 2771, 5073, 1583, 1942, 2635, 3427, 3452, 4701, 4800, 4825, 4902, 4944, 1195, 1433, 3388, 4298, 5066, 33, 806, 813, 1089, 1091, 1228, 1367, 1432, 1445, 1590, 1810, 2472, 2596, 2984, 3149, 3193, 3704, 3708, 3852, 3959, 4146, 4147, 4226, 4256, 4341, 4483, 5015, 5127 & 5239	Reps. Hofer, Salceda, Belaro, Vargas, Santos-Recto, Gatchalian, Tan (S.), Villarín, Revilla, Elago, Cua, Tupas, Nograles (K.A.), Loyola, Macapagal-Arroyo, Cortuna, Go (M.), Del Mar, Batocabe, Lanete, Umali, Tan (A.), Fuentebella, Geron, Antonio, Alejano, Espino, Romualdez, Bolilia, Salon, Lazatin, Villanueva, Castelo, and Olivarez	Promoting universal access to quality tertiary education by providing for free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and state-run technical vocational institutions (TVIs) and strengthening the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 47 bills with amendment. It agreed to delete the first two paragraphs under Section 13 (Appropriations) and replace them with: "The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the universal access to quality tertiary education shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget of the SUCs, CHED, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)." Rep. Nograles requested CHED Commissioner Prospero de Vera to submit a report on the utilization of the P8.3 billion allotted for free tuition fees for SUCs. Likewise, UniFAST Deputy Executive Director Garry de Guzman was asked to submit the list of recipients of the various financial assistance programs of CHED.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4774, 4688, 20, 35, 39,	Reps. Cua, Salceda, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps.	Amending Sections 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264 and 288; creating new Sections 148-	The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 55 bills on the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion" (TRAIN).

Continuation... Appropriations	57, 103, 137, 183, 292, 295, 333, 362, 363, 403, 411, 466, 562, 997, 1000, 1002, 1272, 1326, 1522, 1536, 1601, 1604, 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	Del Mar, Yap (A.), Tinio, Tan (A.), Noel, Olivarez, Suansing (H.), Zarate, Zamora (M.C.), Abellanos, Tiangco, Deputy Speaker Abu, Reps. Castelo, Campos, Biazon, Gatchalian, Macapagal-Arroyo, Herrera-Dy, Baguilat, Angara-Castillo, Rodriguez (M.), Gasataya, Santos-Recto, Cuaresma, Pineda, Javier, Aglipay-Villar, Ocampo, Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Tambunting, Lanete, Cortuna, Marcoleta, Zubiri, Bag-ao, and Villafuerte	A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B and 265-A; and repealing Sections 35 and 62, all under RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997	
	HB 2660	Rep. Angara-Castillo	Designating the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) as the national youth development program for music, defining its role and functions as such, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 2660 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Nograles recommended the deletion of the appropriations provision under Section 9 of the bill, saying that the NAMCYA is considered a foundation and as such is not entitled to mandatory appropriation by the government.</p> <p>The Committee likewise agreed to amend Section 5 (Entitlement) of the bill by providing that the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall extend annual assistance to NAMCYA to sustain its programs and projects.</p>
Economic Affairs	Substitute Bill to HBs 4389, 4468, 4501, 4787 & 4996	Reps. Macapagal-Arroyo, Salceda, Yap (A.), Belmonte (F.), and Del Rosario	Providing for the definition of public utility, further amending for the purpose Commonwealth Act 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), approved with amendments the substitute bill to the five measures.
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 53, 253, 538, 581, 663, 1106, 1804, 1973, 2023, 2511, 2674, 3146, 3161, 3536, 3978, 4276	Reps. Bag-ao, Roque, Yap (V.), Deputy Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Baguilat, Eriguel, Suansing (E.), Marcos, Angara-Castillo, Tan (A.),	Strengthening the Philippine comprehensive policy on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention, treatment, care and support, and establishing the Philippine National HIV and AIDS Plan, repealing for the purpose RA 8504, otherwise known as the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998, and appropriating	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 17 bills.

Continuation... Health	& 5145	Alejano, Tambunting, Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Villarin, Salo, and Mendoza	funds therefor	
	Substitute Bill to HBs 349, 584, 844, 1040, 1698, 3796, 4101, 4184, 4301 & 4686	Deputy Speakers Quimbo and Cayetano, Reps, Villarica, Salo, Nograla (K.A.), Baguilat, Roa- Puno, Villarin, Zarate, and Nieto	Establishing a national mental health policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services, promoting and protecting persons utilizing psychiatric, neurologic and psychosocial health services, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 10 bills.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 918 & 3657	Reps. Roque and Tan (A.)	Institutionalizing health promotion in the Philippines by establishing a National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Commission of the Philippines, providing for a health promotion fund and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 918 and 3667.
	HB 3163	Rep. Tan (A.)	Providing policies and prescribing procedures on surveillance and response to notifiable diseases, epidemics, and health related events, amending for the purpose RA 3573, or the law providing for the prevention and suppression of dangerous communicable diseases and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3163.
	HB 4127	Rep. Go (M.)	Authorizing the Department of Health (DOH) to set and approve the bed capacity of all DOH hospitals	The Committee approved HB 4127.
	HB 96	Deputy Speaker Sema	Converting the bed capacity of Dinaig Municipal Hospital in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Province of Maguindanao into a 50-bed capacity district hospital to be known as the Datu Odin Sinsuat District Hospital, amending for the purpose RA 6918 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 96 subject to style and amendment. DOH Health Facilities Development Bureau Director Madeline Doromal said that the DOH interposes no objection to the bill as long as the DOH Regional Office certifies the hospital's need for additional beds and the local government unit (LGU) concerned has signified its willingness to provide funding for the hospital's maintenance and other operating expenses. Doromal clarified that the DOH will provide the needed capital outlay (CO) under its health facility enhancement program.
	HB 639	Rep. Unico	Providing for the establishment of a district hospital in the Municipality of Santa Elena, Province of Camarines Norte and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 639.
	HB 1293	Rep. Robes	Establishing a tertiary hospital in the City of San Jose Del Monte Bulacan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1293.
	HB 1574	Rep. Vargas	Providing for the construction of a super health center and lying-in clinic in Barangay San Agustin, Quezon City and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1574.

Continuation... Health	HB 1686	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Providing for the upgrade and modernization of the J.R. Borja City Memorial Hospital as an extension hospital of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) in Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1686.
	HB 1955	Rep. Eusebio	Increasing the bed capacity of Rizal Medical Center (RMC) in Pasig City from 300 to 500 beds and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1955. RMC President Relito Saquilayan explained that RMC and the Rizal Provincial Government, which owns the land occupied by the hospital, have already agreed to use the land for hospital expansion for 25 years.
	HB 4125	Rep. Sahali	Increasing the bed capacity of Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital, also known as the Provincial Hospital of Tawi-Tawi in the Municipality of Bongao, Province of Tawi-Tawi from level 2 with 50-bed authorized capacity to level 3 with 200-bed authorized capacity, upgrading its services and facilities and professional health care, authorizing the increase of its medical personnel and their salaries, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4125 with amendment. Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby Sahali, author of HB 4125, proposed to amend the title of the bill by replacing the phrase "from level 2 with 50-bed authorized capacity to level 3 with 200-bed authorized capacity" to "from level 1 with 50-bed authorized capacity to level 2 with 100-bed authorized capacity."
	HBs 621, 2466, 3924, 4391 & 5503, and HR 244	Reps. Paduano, Yap (A.), Vargas, Tan (A.), Go (M.), and Zarate	Requiring all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis service facility in their respective hospitals and providing free dialysis treatment to indigent patients	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the six measures. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), author of HB 4391. Doromal said the DOH supports the measures in line with its Philippine Health Development Plan. National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) Executive Director Rose Marie Liquele proposed the establishment of a peritoneal dialysis center because it is cost effective rather than a hemodialysis center that requires huge capital investment. NKTi Deputy Director for Medical Education and Head of the Hemodialysis Unit Romina Danguilan recommended that patients should be encouraged to undergo kidney transplant to allow them to go back to work or be productive after full rehabilitation rather than go through a life-long dialysis treatment. PhilHealth Senior Vice President Francisco Soria said that PhilHealth maintains its position that any expansion in the health coverage will need further study by PhilHealth as to its impact on its funds. The Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN), Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), Philippine Hemodialysis/Peritoneal Society, and Hemodialysis Patients Association manifested their support for the proposed law.

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proclamation 145 s. 2002 	<p>housing, the NHA claimed that it is being implemented.</p> <p>However, Jennilyn David, secretary general of Alliance of Peoples' Organization Along Manggahan Floodway Pasig (APOAMFP), expressed dismay over NHA's snail-paced implementation of the proclamation. She disclosed that the residents in the area have received a notice of eviction from the Pasig City government and are now waiting for the inevitable.</p> <p>NHA's Division Manager Ma. Theresa Siat said that the informal settlers along the Manggahan Floodway in Pasig will be provided with housing units in four buildings which will be ready for occupancy in July of this year, and five more buildings by the last quarter of the year.</p> <p>Josenar Caparas of the Office of the Mayor of Pasig City confirmed that the 30-day notices of eviction issued to 629 families are already in process. He said that identified relocation sites in Tanay, Rizal and within Pasig City can accommodate the affected informal settler families (ISFs).</p> <p>On the status of implementation of Proclamation 145, which declares the land occupied by Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Company (BASECO) in Port Area, Manila open for disposition to its actual occupants, the Committee resolved to invite the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to its next meeting to report on the matter.</p> <p>Arwin Atentar of the Urban Poor Associates (UPA) underscored the need to identify the boundaries of the area to facilitate the subdivision of the land for allocation to qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p>Asked on the number of residents in the area, George Tenolete, president of <i>Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran sa BASECO</i>, said that there are about 14,000 families occupying the 52-hectare land.</p> <p>Rep. Cristal Bagatsing (5th District, Manila) stressed the importance of having an actual count of ISFs living in the area to determine the number of awardees under the proclamation. She further suggested that the concerns raised by the settlers be discussed with the DENR and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).</p>
<p>Information and Communications Technology</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HB 929</p>	<p>Rep. Abaya</p>	<p>Providing for the establishment of the "no calls and no text" registration system</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 2556, 2907, 2874, 3629 and 4241 with the draft Substitute Bill to HB 929.</p>

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology	HBs 2556 & 2907	Rep. Castelo	Granting the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) direct regulatory power to impose fine and revoke franchise of erring telecommunications company or any of its service provider on unsolicited or unwanted message or material via text to mobile phone user/subscriber	The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Francis Gerald Abaya (1st District, Cavite), author of HB 929.
	HB 2874	Rep. Yap (V.)	Penalizing malicious use of a telecommunication device	Rep. Yap, author of HB 2874, and Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), author of HBs 2556 and 2907, pointed out that calls and text messages promoting goods and services must be sent only to subscribers who have given prior consent or opted to receive such messages.
	HB 3629	Rep. Sandoval	Prohibiting the transmission of spam messages or unsolicited commercial and promotional advertisements through broadcast messaging service and providing penalties for violation thereof	Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, author of HB 3629, asked how advertising companies obtain the telephone numbers of subscribers from telecommunications companies (telcos).
	HB 4241	Rep. Belaro	Prohibiting telecommunications providers from implementing misleading promos	Ariel Tubayan, director for policy division of Globe Telecom, Inc., stressed that Globe does not give out nor sell the mobile numbers of their subscribers in compliance with RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012. With regard to the "special access number" being used by advertisers to send messages to mobile subscribers, Tubayan explained that only the name of the product or establishment is displayed on the receiver's phone instead of the sender's number even though it is not in the phonebook of the recipient. The Committee requested Globe and Smart to submit a copy of their subscription agreement with companies that use special access numbers.
	HBs 590, 931, 1193, 1258, 2328, 2648, 2809, 3649, 3661, 4014, 4404 & 4646	Reps. Velarde, Abaya, Loyola, Biazon, Antonino, Gatchalian, Castelo, Rodriguez (M.), Sandoval, Lazatin, and Almario	Requiring the registration of all users of pre-paid and postpaid subscriber identity module (SIM) cards for mobile phones	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the 13 bills. HB 590, authored by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde, Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), will be used as the lead bill.
	HB 5382	Rep. Lopez (M.)	Mandating the cooperation of all telecommunications corporations, internet service providers, and social media networks in creating an efficient identification mechanism for the deterrence of the commission of terrorist activities and providing penalties for violations thereof	
Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HBs 5200 & 5217	Reps. Arenas and Ermita-Buhain	Extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Bright Star Broadcasting Network Corporation under RA 7295, or the law granting 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, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 5200 and 5217.

Continuation... Legislative Franchises	Substitute Bill to HB 2045	Rep. Sacdalan	Granting a separate legislative franchise to Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. – PPALMA (COTELCO-PPALMA) to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end users in the Municipalities of Pikit, Pigcawayan, Aleosan, Libungan, Midsayap and Alamada, all in the Province of Cotabato, and its neighboring suburbs	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HB 2045.
	HB 4169	Rep. Villafuerte	Granting the Bicol Light and Power Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, own, manage and maintain distribution systems for the conveyance of electric power to the end-users in the towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, and Nabua, and the City of Iriga, all in the Province of Camarines Sur	The Committee approved HB 4169. Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 4169, underscored the need to provide a dependable electric power distribution system for the benefit of the people of Camarines Sur. Rep. Villafuerte said that the Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III) has failed to provide a reliable service, citing numerous power outages in most parts of the province. National Electrification Administration (NEA) Legal Department Manager Xerxes Adzuara expressed his objection to the passage of the bill. According to Adzuara, CASURECO III has 12 years more before its franchise expires. He informed the Committee that NEA has already convened a task force, dubbed as Task Force Duterte Rinconada Power, to address the needs and demands of CASURECO III member-consumer-owners (MCOs).
	HB 4380	Rep. Almonte	Granting the Malindang Broadcasting Network Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 4380 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 632	Rep. Romualdo	Further amending PD 1869, as amended	The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 632 and 2630 in its next meeting.
	HB 2630	Rep. Atienza	Amending Section 12 of PD 1869, consolidating and amending PD Nos. 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1399 and 1632, relative to the franchise and powers of the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)	Games and Amusements Board (GAB) Chair Abraham Mitra interposed no objection to the bills. PAGCOR Chief of Staff Albert Regino Jr. informed the Committee of PAGCOR’s proposed Philippine Gaming Control Act which is patterned after existing laws in the United States and Singapore. PAGCOR was requested to provide the Committee with a copy of its proposal. On the request of Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, PAGCOR will submit the list of requirements and the processes involved in obtaining a gaming franchise.
Population and Family Relations	Substitute Bill to HBs 12, 107, 171, 317,	Reps. Belmonte (F.), Alejano, Nogralles (K.A.), Primicias-	Establishing the Filipino Identification System	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragones (3 rd District, Laguna), approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill to the 18 measures, subject to style.

Continuation... Population and Family Relations	368, 512, 523, 597, 696, 1267, 1687, 1711, 2001, 2167, 2338, 3425, 3448 & 4167	Agabas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Barbers, Garbin, Pichay, Macapagal- Arroyo, Biazon, Rodriguez (M.), Romualdo, Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Santos-Recto, Espino, Erice, Teves, and Aragones		<p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the bill's appropriations provision.</p> <p>Rep. Aragones said that the proposed National Identification System will :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify public and private transactions through the use of a national identification card which is an economic and social tool for efficiency and convenience, integrating one's coordinated personal information system into a single, coherent, simplified and secured databank; • Provide easy access to private and government services, improve the delivery of basic services from government offices, and unify all existing government-issued identification cards; and • Facilitate and encourage continuous and compulsory recording of acts and events concerning the status of a person for an effective planning, social development and economic advancement.
	HB 4689	Rep. Bag-ao	Mandating the creation of a Local Population Development Office in all provinces, cities and municipalities and prescribing its duties and functions	<p>The Committee approved HB 4689, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Aragones, co-author of HB 4689, said that under the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, the appointment of a local population officer is merely an option for local government units (LGUs). She underscored the need to create of a local population development office in all provinces, cities and municipalities in the country, with local population officers being tasked to plan and implement population development and responsible parenthood initiatives to complement poverty alleviation programs.</p> <p>Representatives from the Commission on Population (POPCOM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), League of Provinces, and League of Cities expressed their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>POPCOM Executive Director Juan Antonio Perez III said that having a local population officer in every LGU will help the latter provide the appropriate services to its constituents and assist the national government in implementing Executive Order 12 issued by the Office of the President to strictly implement the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act.</p>
	HB 4742	Rep. Aragones	Providing for a national policy in preventing teenage pregnancies, institutionalizing social protection for teenage parents, and providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 4742, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the appropriations provision.</p>

Continuation... Population and Family Relations				<p>Rep. Aragonese said the measure seeks to institute programs to address the country's alarming high teenage pregnancy rate.</p> <p>Representatives from the POPCOM, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), and the National Youth Commission (NYC) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>DepEd Assistant Secretary Tonisito Umali said that DepEd developed a revitalized homeroom guidance program that is age-appropriate, taught by trained teachers and is integrated with other subjects. This program includes key concepts on values formation, physical, social and emotional changes in adolescents, women's and children's rights, and responsible teenage behavior, among others.</p> <p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) urged the DepEd to revisit its program in view of the increase in the incidence of teenage pregnancies.</p> <p>Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (2nd District, Masbate) suggested tapping the Department of Health (DOH) to fund the infrastructure projects under the proposed law, such as the establishment of functional local teen centers for adolescent health and development.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HB 2751	Rep. Arbison	Establishing an area equipment services office in the 2nd Legislative District of Sulu Province and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), approved HB 2751.
	HBs 4764, 4873, 4915 & 5035	Deputy Speaker Abueg, Reps. Daza, Garin (O.), and Marquez	Naming/renaming of roads in certain parts of the country	The Committee approved the four bills.
	HB 5171	Rep. Salimbangon	Changing the numerical names of the Cebu 1st, 2nd, and 4th district engineering offices (DEOs) in the Province of Cebu to conform to the numerical names of the congressional districts where the DEOs exercise jurisdiction, amending for the purpose RAs 9043 and 9218	The Committee approved HB 5171.
	HB 845	Rep. Villarica	Providing for safety measures for culverts or other similar flood or drainage system maintained by government entities	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 845 in another meeting.</p> <p>The Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Interior and Local Government (DILG) were requested to submit their respective positions papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 4778	Rep. Mariño	Creating a separate engineering district in the City of Batangas and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred its deliberation on HB 4778 pending the decision of the DPWH on the possibility of lowering or reducing its requirements for the creation of a district engineering office (DEO).

Continuation... Public Works and Highways	HB 5037	Rep. Acop	Creating separate DEO in the City of Antipolo	The Committee deferred its deliberation on HB 5037 pending the decision of the DPWH on the possibility of lowering or reducing its requirements for the creation of DEOs.
Tourism	HB 1066	Rep. Lanete	Declaring the island of Balangingi in the Municipality of Pio V. Corpuz, Province of Masbate, an ecotourism site and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, approved HB 1066.</p> <p>Beata Batadlan, OIC of the Land Classification Division of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) said that the agency could not comment on the bill until it receives the technical description of the area covered.</p> <p>Rep. Siao requested the House Members with bills, declaring areas as ecotourism zones/sites or tourist spots, to submit a technical description of the subject areas.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento urged the Department of Tourism (DOT) to be proactive in identifying sites with huge tourism potential.</p> <p>DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation, Coordination and Resource Generation Alma Rita Jimenez said that the National Tourism Development Plan 2016-2022, which was approved last April by the President, identifies the priority areas of development in different regions.</p> <p>The DOT was requested to submit a copy of the approved NTDP to the Committee.</p>
	HB 1090	Rep. Lanete	Declaring the island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands of Naboctot and Guinawayan in the Municipality of Placer, Province of Masbate, an ecotourism zone, establishing the Placer Ecotourism Development Council and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1090.
	HB 1201	Rep. Sarmiento (C.)	Declaring the Puraran Beach and its premises located in Puraran, Baras, Catanduanes as a tourist spot and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1201.
	HB 1233	Rep. Umali	Declaring Verde Island Passage as marine protected area (MPA) and ecotourism zone	The Committee approved HB 1233.
	HBs 1406, 1407, 1408 & 1409	Rep. Amante	Declaring certain areas in Agusan del Norte as priority tourism sites and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the four bills.</p> <p>DOT Undersecretary for Oversight Function and Legislative Matters Falconi Millar said that all the sites mentioned in the four bills are already identified as priority areas of development under the NTDP.</p>
	HB 1862	Rep. De Venecia	Declaring the Basilica of our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag in the Municipality of Manaoag, Province of Pangasinan as a pilgrimage site and tourist destination providing for its development and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1862.

Continuation... Tourism	HB 1092	Rep. Lanete	Declaring the Municipality of Placer, Province of Masbate as the festival capital of Bicolandia, establishing the Placer Festival Council, providing funds therefor	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1092 in another meeting.
	HB 1386	Rep. Vargas	Declaring La Mesa Dam Ecopark in Barangay Fairview, Quezon City as a tourism site	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1386 in another meeting.
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 1952, 1996, 2152, 2294, 2542, 2792, 2817 & 4627	Reps. Santos-Recto, Tan (A.), Pineda, Acop, Pimentel, Ferriol-Pascual, Suansing (E.), and Deputy Speaker Andaya	Rationalizing and strengthening the policy regarding driver's license, providing for a five-year validity, and penalizing acts in violation of the provisions pertaining to the issuance, application, and use of the driver's license	The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, approved the substitute bill to the eight measures, subject to amendment.
	HBs 106 & 296	Reps. Tan (A.) and Suansing (H.)	Establishing the taxi passengers' rights	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the four bills.
	HB 758	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Providing for the regulation of activities of taxi drivers and operators	The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija).
	HB 4433	Rep. Abayon	Penalizing the charging of taxi fares which are higher than the official rates, the failure to use the taxi meters, or the refusal to carry taxi passengers, without cause, to their places of destination	
Veterans Affairs and Welfare	HR 608	Rep. Bataoil	Expressing the profound appreciation of the House of Representatives and the veterans of World War II for the passage of the measure authorizing the conferment of congressional gold medal to the Filipino veterans of World War II collectively in recognition of their dedicated service	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2 nd District, Pangasinan), adopted HR 608.
	HBs 1128 & 1262	Reps. Alejano and Biazon	Mandating the use of proceeds from the development, lease or use of certain government properties for payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 1128 and 1262 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Veterans Federation of the Philippines-Industrial Center (VFP-IC) Officer-in-charge Atty. Eric Himan briefed the Committee on the operations and management of the 50-hectare property of VFP-IC in Taguig City.</p> <p>Himan said that the land was awarded to the veterans through Presidential Proclamation No. 192, signed by then President Ferdinand Marcos on April 4, 1972. At present, 44 hectares were rented out to private developers, while the remaining six hectares were allotted to parking areas and open spaces.</p> <p>Rep. Bataoil suggested to the body to consider the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG) created during the 16th Congress that comprehensively discussed a bill with similar subject matter to that of HBs 1128 and 1262, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts entered into by the VFP-IC that have expired or will expire on or before June 30, 2014 should not be renewed;

Continuation... Veterans Affairs and Welfare				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts that were renewed but without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND) should either be rescinded and/or renegotiated; and • Contracts which are enforceable should be allowed to continue subject to escalation clause and/or periodic review clause. <p>On the question of Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac) whether contracts entered into by the VFP is binding, Atty. Melissa Acorda of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) replied in the affirmative. Citing a Supreme Court (SC) ruling, Acorda explained that the acts of the subordinate (referring to the VFP) shall be the acts of the superior (the DND), and that these acts are effective unless modified or altered by the latter.</p> <p>Replying to another query of Rep. Villanueva, Acorda said the VFP is subject to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA), adding that the SC already ruled that VFP is a government corporation.</p> <p>The Committee approved the motion of Rep. Villanueva to direct the OGCC and COA to review all lease contracts entered into by the VFP and determine if the procurement law was complied with.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo) mentioned three issues that need to be resolved relative to the bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether it is within the power of the VFP to lease its property in Taguig City covered by Presidential Proclamation No. 192; • Whether the rates stipulated in the contract of lease are reflective of the current market conditions; and • Whether the VFP was able to achieve the optimum financial benefits from the use of its properties for the benefit of the veterans. <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go asked the VFP to submit its financial statement for the last 10 years for review by the Committee.</p>
Ways and Means	HB 5089	Rep. Tiangco	Withdrawing all tax exemptions and incentives granted to all telecommunications services company with legislative franchise	<p>The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, will deliberate further on HBs 5089 and 5444 in another meeting.</p> <p>The bills' authors, Navotas City Rep. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco and Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), are convinced that it is now high time that the tax exemptions of old telecommunications companies (telcos) be lifted.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco explained that the grant of exemptions and incentives to telcos was</p>
	HB 5444	Deputy Speaker Garin	Reimposing franchise tax on telephone, telegraph and telecommunications entities, amending for the purpose Sections 108-A and 119 of RA 8424, as amended, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997	

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>intended to support them in the initial stages of their business operations. It is now more than 25 years since the telcos were granted such tax exemptions, he said, and they are already earning huge profits. He added that the combined gross receipts of the two biggest telcos in the country (Globe and PLDT-Smart) has reached P265 billion in 2016 alone.</p> <p>On the motion of Rep. Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), the Committee resolved to expand the regulatory powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to ensure that the proposed tax impositions, particularly the franchise tax, will not be passed on to the consumers.</p> <p>Reacting to the issue of double taxation, the bills' authors argued that imposing an additional eight percent franchise tax on top of VAT on telcos will not constitute double taxation since the former is a tax on the privilege granted by the State while the latter is levied against the sale of product or service.</p> <p>Director Elsa Agustin of DOF's Fiscal Policy and Planning Office submitted to the wisdom of the authors.</p> <p>ABS Party-List Rep. Eugene Michael de Vera suggested the conduct of a review of the tax regime of industries with legislative franchises, except basic utilities.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) also urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to look into the gross receipts and tax payments of Globe and PLDT-Smart, expressing doubts on the veracity of the reported P265 billion combined gross receipts of these two telcos in 2016.</p> <p>Atty. Roy Cecil Ibay, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunications Operators (PCTO), reported that telcos have remitted to the government P24.2 billion and P19 billion in taxes in 2015 and 2016, respectively.</p> <p>The telcos were requested to submit data on their advertising, marketing, capital, and research and development expenditures; while the NTC was requested to submit details of the telcos' income and profit margin.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 69 & 2510	Reps. Salceda and Cua	Collective Investment Schemes Law (CISL)	<p>The Committee, presided by Deputy Speaker Garin, will deliberate further on the tax provision of the substitute bill in another meeting.</p> <p>Representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), and the industry players expressed support for the tax provision of the bill. On the other hand, the Insurance Commission and the Department of Finance</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				(DOF) were against it. The resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers and recommendations on the bill for the Committee's consideration.
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AD HOC MULTI-COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ad Hoc Multi-Committee on the Western-Eastern Nautical Highway Inspection Trip	Report on the western-eastern nautical highway inspection trip conducted on March 17 to 27, 2017	<p>The Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez (1st District, Davao del Norte), reported on the outcome of the western-eastern nautical highway inspection trip of the House contingent held from March 17 to 27, 2017.</p> <p>The Ad Hoc Committee, which also includes as members the chairpersons of the Committees on Accounts, Appropriations, Health, Public Works and Highways, Transportation, and Tourism, was convened on March 29, 2017 for the purpose of rendering reports on the state of the country’s Roll-on, Roll-off (RoRo) system, including the status and condition of various ports, highways, bridges and other related infrastructures.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), who presided over the meeting, recounted the group’s experience during the trip with the aid of a powerpoint presentation and expressed satisfaction over its success. He extended his gratitude to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee and other congressmen who took part in the inspection trip, as well as the public officials and other personalities who made this exercise possible. He announced that the Committee will conduct a similar inspection in Northern Luzon on June 1 to 6, 2017.</p> <p>Saying that much work needs to be done to improve the country’s RoRo system, the Majority Leader noted, for one, the bad condition of some roads in Northern Samar and instructed Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations in the Visayas Roberto Bernardo to expedite the road improvement projects in this province.</p> <p>He also observed the lack of “rest areas” along the highways en route to some places the team visited, and saw the need to pass a law that will require the construction of these facilities in strategic areas.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, chair of the Committee on Transportation, urged the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to institute reforms in their respective sectors to ensure the safety and convenience of the passengers and the efficiency and security of public transportation facilities.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento proposed the creation of a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) which will be tasked to conduct impartial investigation of accidents, safety inspections, and assessment of safety policies and practices in all modes of transportation. He requested the Committee on Rules to refer the NTSB bill to the Committee on Transportation which he promised to immediately act on.</p> <p>Citing the importance of an efficient road network to the country’s economic growth, Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga</p>

<p>Continuation... Ad Hoc Multi-Committee on the Western-Eastern Nautical Highway Inspection Trip</p>		<p>City), chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, recommended the conduct of an inventory of roads in Visayas and Mindanao, including their condition, to determine the extent of road construction, improvement and widening that the government needs to undertake, right-of-way (ROW) issues that need to be resolved, and the corresponding funding requirements.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) discussed the issues that hamper the development of the tourism industry in the Island of Boracay, Aklan: over-expansion; lack of support infrastructures; improper waste disposal by establishments in the area; and lack of well-equipped hospitals.</p> <p>Rep. Bondoc said that he hopes that a more comprehensive report on developments in the country's major tourism sites will be prepared after the subsequent trips of the Ad Hoc Committee.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 2957	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for the establishment of a <i>Timbangan ng Bayan Center</i> in all markets nationwide, amending for the purpose, Chapter II of the RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, approved the draft Substitute Bill to HB 2957 with amendment. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.
	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 3091 & 5157	Reps. Castelo and Sy-Alvarado	Regulating the issuance, use and redemption of gift checks, gift certificates or gift cards	The TWG approved the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 3091 and 5157 with amendment. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.

AGENCY BRIEFING/ CONSULTATION		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Information and Communications Technology	Briefing by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), listened to the briefing conducted by DICT Undersecretary Dennis Villoriente on the DICT's National Broadband Plan (NBP).</p> <p>Villoriente reported that according to the Global Information Technology Report (GITR) 2016 of the World Economic Forum, the Philippines lags behind its neighboring countries in terms of affordability of information and communications technology (ICT) services, ICT infrastructure, policy and regulatory environment, and business and innovation environment.</p> <p>He said that the NBP aims to improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of broadband services in the country by establishing appropriate policy and regulatory reforms, investing on broadband infrastructure, and supporting the stimulation of broadband demand.</p> <p>He pointed out that existing laws, policy and regulatory frameworks that govern ICT or telecommunications are no longer responsive to the current trends and are unable to foster competition and dynamism in the sector.</p> <p>1-PACMAN Party-List Rep. Enrico Pineda opined that the government should take the lead in providing quality telecommunications services to the country. However, Villoriente explained that with RA 7925 or the</p>

<p>Continuation... Information and Communications Technology</p>		<p>Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, telecommunications services have been privatized. Villorente believes that this law must be reviewed.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), Villorente said that the NBP will be fully implemented by 2019 to 2020.</p>
<p>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Discussion on the National Tobacco Administration's (NTA) plans and programs for affected tobacco farmers amidst the looming closure of Mighty Corporation</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), discussed with NTA officials their courses of action in the event Mighty Corporation, one of the largest local cigarette manufacturers in the Philippines, is closed down.</p> <p>Rep. Savellano pointed out the need to come up with solutions to preserve the viability of the tobacco industry and protect the welfare of the farmers should the manufacturing facilities of Mighty Corporation be closed down and its license to operate is cancelled due to billions of pesos in tax liabilities and penalties as a result of the tax evasion cases filed against it by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).</p> <p>NTA Administrator Robert Seares said that to address the plight of the farmers who would be left with unsold tobaccos, the NTA will require cigarette manufacturers to purchase first the local tobacco produce before allowing them to import from other countries. He said there are about 6.3 million kilos of unsold tobacco leaves that are still with the farmers.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Eric Singson (2nd District, Ilocos Sur) advised the NTA to request funding from the Tobacco Fund, which was created by virtue of RA 4155 or the law promoting and strengthening the Virginia tobacco industry, to support the purchase of locally-grown and produced Virginia tobacco leaves.</p> <p>ANAC-IC Party-List Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. suggested that the NTA should look into the possibility of regulating the importation of tobacco through the issuance of an administrative order.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Elena Tan, president of the Continental Leaf Tobacco Philippines, Inc. (CONLEAF), believes that it is to the best interest of the farmers to allow Mighty Corporation to continue its operations while the cases against it are pending with the courts. Tan added that the NTA should just penalize the corporation and not put it entirely out of business as this would lead to a monopoly in the cigarette industry by its business competitors.</p> <p>NTA Deputy Administrator Mikael Crisologo said that the NTA cannot interfere with the case as it falls within the purview of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).</p> <p>Director Cesar Gapatan of the National Federation of Tobacco-Based Association and Cooperatives (NFTBAC) sought the help of the Committee to address the decreasing trend in tobacco prices since the issue against Mighty Corporation surfaced.</p> <p>Upon the motion of Deputy Speaker Singson, the Committee agreed to create a special committee that will look into the impact of the eventual closure of Mighty Corporation on the tobacco industry and on the farmers.</p> <p>The NTA will also submit its report to the Committee on the result of its consultative meeting with tobacco farmers, manufacturers and other stakeholders that will be held on May 17.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Discussion on the creation/establishment of regular and extension offices of the Land Transportation Office (LTO)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, discussed the list of possible sites in some regions where LTO offices may be established. The list was submitted by LTO upon the request</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>of the Committee.</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) about the functions of LTO extension offices, LTO Operations Division head Mercy Jane Paras-Leynes said that they are in charge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of driver's license and motor vehicle registration; and • Miscellaneous transactions for motor vehicle registration, such as transfer of vehicle ownership and release of chattel mortgage. <p>ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo proposed that special LTO offices should also be established within the premises of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to serve the needs of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), particularly in the renewal of driver's license.</p> <p>LTO would submit its position paper relative to Rep. Manalo's suggestion.</p>
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