

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health (Technical Working Group)	HBs 225, 1975, 5120 & 5560	Reps. Tan (A.), Salo, Roque, and Santos-Recto	Providing universal health care for all Filipinos, amending for the purpose RA 7875, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995, as amended, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 225, 1975, 5120, and 5560, incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Among those who presented their recommendations to the proposed law were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Secretary Enrique Tayag of the Department of Health (DOH); and</li> <li>• Professors Ramon Paterno and Fely Marilyn Lorenzo of the University of the Philippines (UP), Manila.</li> </ul> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) expressed their support for the bills.</p>
	HB 180	Rep. Albano	Providing compassionate and right of access to medical cannabis and expanding research into its medicinal properties	<p>The TWG, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), will deliberate further on HB 180 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (1<sup>st</sup> District, Isabela), author of HB 180, said that the proposed law should not be deemed as propagating the use of cannabis or marijuana without any regard to people’s safety and well-being, stressing that the bill provides safety and regulatory mechanisms to deter any abuse and to ensure its effective implementation.</p> <p>HB 180 allows the medical use of cannabis which has been confirmed to have beneficial and therapeutic uses to treat chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition, such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy.</p> <p>The Committee Chair, Rep. Angelina “Helen”</p>

Continuation... Health (Technical Working Group)				<p>Tan (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), urged those present during the TWG meeting to support the measure which, she said, focuses on research and development of medical cannabis and not on its “recreational” use.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, along with Rep. Seth Frederick Jalosjos (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), gave assurance that the bill will be crafted with strict safety measures in order to avoid the ill-effects of legalizing cannabis, citing the experience of the United States.</p> <p>Former Health Secretary Jaime Tan said that the use of medical cannabis should not instill fear among Filipinos as it will not likely lead to drug abuse, citing the case of morphine (which is derived from opium poppy, a known source of narcotic substance), which is widely used as an effective medical sedative worldwide and used for at least 50 years in the Philippines. Tan explained that morphine is a more dangerous substance than what is extracted from cannabis.</p>
Subcommittee on Immigration, Naturalization and Deportation of the Committee on Justice (Technical Working Group)	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	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting, subject to the submission by the Bureau of Immigration (BI) of its revised proposal.</p> <p>Earlier, the Bureau submitted to the TWG its proposed version of the bill focusing on the aspect of compensation and the upgrading of positions in the agency.</p> <p>Rep. Batocabe instructed the BI officials to re-draft their proposal, explaining that the Committee prefers a bill that is comprehensive and encompasses all matters that need to be addressed in the Bureau.</p>
Labor and Employment (Technical Working Group)	HBs 269 & 500	Reps. Roman and Nograles (K.A.)	Instituting policies for the protection and welfare of caregivers in the practice of their profession	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Geraldine Roman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bataan), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 269 and 500, incorporating therein the relevant recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 593, 755, 2305, 2742, 5104 & 5363	Reps. Velarde, Aglipay-Villar, Castelo, Biazon, and Olivarez	Mandatory installation of monitoring devices in public utility vehicles, providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., approved the draft substitute bill, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Mark Richmund de Leon manifested his support for the bill, and suggested that it should also cover other modes of transportation, such as minibuses,</p>

Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)				<p>shuttle services, school buses, and jeepneys.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Director for Law Enforcement Service Francis Ray Almora likewise expressed his support for the bill, adding that there should be a separate bill to cover private vehicles.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Technical Division chief Joel de Jesus Bolano suggested to include a budgetary provision for the implementation of the proposed law. He also said that the closed-circuit television (CCTV) and the global positioning system (GPS) must be installed, authenticated, and sealed by and registered with the LTFRB.</p> <p>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Assistant Secretary Alan Silor manifested that DICT should be included among the agencies that will recommend the specifications and standards of the GPS and CCTV that are being required by the proposed law. He added that a single platform should be used for data retrieval to ensure compatibility of the CCTV and the GPS systems.</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 TWG approved HB 1319, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), LTO, Highway Patrol Group, World Health Organization (WHO), Ateneo School of Government, Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Legal Services (IDEALS, Inc.), and IMAGINE Law manifested their support for the bill.</p>