

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 110
May 15, 2017

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5225 & SB 1277	Rep. Tambunting and Sen. Pangilinan	Establishing the free internet access program in public places in the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-presided by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), Chair of the House Committee on Information and Communications Technology, and Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, Chair of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology, approved the reconciled version of HB 5225 and SB 1277 subject to style and amendments.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Henry Ong (2nd District, Leyte), Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas (3rd District, Pangasinan), Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), Roger "Oging" Mercado (Southern Leyte), Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW), and Mariano Michael Velarde, Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY); on the part of the Senate, Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto and Senators Maria Lourdes "Nancy" Binay and Joel Villanueva.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HB 2950	Rep. Santos-Recto	Ensuring access to free secondary education by converting the public elementary schools into integrated schools and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5 th District, Cebu), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2950. It agreed to adopt the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4 th District, Batangas), that comprehensively discussed the bill.
	HB 2092	Rep. Tinio	Declaring February 4 of every year as "Philippine-American War Day"	The Committee approved HB 2092 with amendments.
	HB 1331	Rep. Gatchalian	Creating a national high school in Barangay Lingunan, Valenzuela City to be known as Lingunan National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1331.
	HB 4160	Rep. Espina	Renaming the Manlabang National High School in the Municipality of Caibiran, Province of Biliran into the Caibiran National High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4160.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture	HBs 4293, 4294, 4295, 4296 & 5550	Reps. Bulut- Begtang and Mangaoang	Separating school annexes from certain national high schools in the Provinces of Apayao and Kalinga and converting them into independent national high schools	The Committee approved the five bills.
	HB 5235	Majority Leader Fariñas	Establishing a national science high school in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte to be known as Laoag City National Science High School and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5235.
	HB 1561	Deputy Speaker Garcia- Albano	Declaring the <i>waling-waling</i> as the national flower of the Philippines	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1561 in its next meeting. Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (1st District, Isabela), who sponsored HB 1561 on behalf of the author, explained why the <i>waling-waling</i> should replace <i>sampaguita</i> as the national flower of the Philippines. He said that <i>waling-waling</i> is indigenous and endemic to the Philippines compared to <i>sampaguita</i> which came from India and Saudi Arabia. He added that <i>waling-waling</i> is touted as the queen of Philippine flowers and is worshipped as “ <i>diwata</i> ” by the Bagobos. Referring to the position paper submitted by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Rep. Durano said that the NHCP opposed the bill, arguing that <i>sampaguita</i> has long been “sanctified in the consciousness of the Filipino people.”
	HB 2139	Rep. Bataoil	Declaring every 19 th of June as <i>Araw ng Pagsulat</i> , a special working holiday	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 2139 in its next meeting. National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Executive Director Rico Pableo Jr. suggested that another day be designated for this observance as the proposed date coincides with the birthday of Dr. Jose Rizal. The NCCA was requested to submit its proposed date to commemorate the <i>Araw ng Pagsulat</i> .
Games and Amusements	HR 598	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the proliferation of online <i>sabong</i>	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 598. HR 598, authored by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), calls for an investigation into the legality of off-cockpit betting (or online <i>sabong</i>) to ensure that it will not be exploited as an object of commercialism or uncontrolled gambling. Several Members of the Committee inquired whether the horse racing stations with franchise to operate off-track betting (OTB) can also be used to hold off-cockpit betting. Games and Amusement Board (GAB) Legal Counsel Ermar Benitez replied in the negative. He disclosed that GAB already issued a “cease and desist” order (CDO) to OTB stations which also operate as off-

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>cockpit betting stations but do not have the necessary permit from the local government unit concerned.</p> <p>Reps. Tambunting and Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) both said that the business permit to operate off-cockpit betting station requires a resolution from the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan as the case may be.</p>
	HB 4485	Rep. Batocabe	Amending PD 420, or the law creating the Philippine Racing Commission (PhilRaCom), to include other kinds of animal racing under the jurisdiction and control of the PhilRaCom	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HB 4485.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe, author of HB 4485, explained that in the Philippines, animal racing is limited to horse racing, which is regulated and supervised by PhilRaCom. Later on, however, other kinds of animal racing such as dog or greyhound racing and pigeon racing, have emerged, which may be promoted and supervised by PhilRaCom for recreation and a source of revenue for the government.</p> <p>PhilRaCom expressed full support for the bill.</p>
Justice	Impeachment complaint	Rep. Alejano	Verified complaint for impeachment of President Rodrigo Duterte	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), upon division of the house, declared the impeachment complaint filed against President Rodrigo Duterte as sufficient in form, but insufficient in substance.</p> <p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte) noted that the complainant has no personal knowledge and authentic records to support the impeachment complaint's narration of facts.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) confirmed that based on the current Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Proceedings of the House, any decision made by the Committee on the matter will still undergo deliberation in the plenary.</p>
Labor and Employment	HB 5068	Rep. Go (M.)	Increasing the normal work hours per day under the compressed work week scheme, amending Articles 83, 87 and 91 of PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Randolph Ting (3 rd District, Cagayan), approved HB 5068 subject to style.
	HB 4651	Rep. Cueva	Imposing stiffer penalties on private security agencies for non-payment of the prescribed minimum wage rates or other benefits, amending for the purpose RA 5487, as amended, otherwise known as the Private Security Agency Law	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 4651.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), author of HB 4651.</p> <p>The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies (SOSIA) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators, Inc. (PADPAO) will be invited to join the TWG.</p>
	HB 5067	Rep. Go (M.)	Increasing the service incentive leave of employees, amending for the purpose Article 95 of PD 442	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to fine-tune the bill.

Continuation... Labor and Employment				<p>The TWG will be chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 5067.</p> <p>The Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) and National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), and Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCI) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
Public Order and Security	HR 763	Rep. Acop	<p>Inquiry into the manifest breakdown of discipline in the Philippine National Police (PNP) in light of the recent high-profile criminal incidents allegedly involving officers and members of the organization</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 763 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) Founder and President Dante Jimenez recommended the following measures to help restore discipline in the PNP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement agencies where erring law enforcers belong must investigate the latter within one to six months, and the findings and recommendations on the case must be immediately submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for prosecution; • Prosecutors must complete their evaluation and recommendations on the case, and if there is probable cause, file the necessary complaint within six months; • The court must complete the hearings of the case against erring law enforcers within one year through summary hearings to determine whether accused is guilty or not; and • Law enforcement agencies concerned must confiscate the firearms and badge, and suspend the payment of salaries and allowances of the law enforcer accused of a crime until the completion of the court proceedings. <p>Asked by Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia (3rd District, Cebu) if the recommendations of Jimenez are doable, PNP Deputy Director General for Operations Ramon Apolinario said his office will study first the proposals and promised to submit the PNP's official position on the matter at a later date.</p> <p>Internal Affairs Service (IAS) Chief for Intelligence Maria Lynnberg Constantinopla said that one of the causes of delay in the prosecution of cases against uniformed personnel is the difficulty of sending out summons.</p> <p>To shorten the process, Rep. Acop suggested that station commanders be given the responsibility of immediately notifying their erring subordinates of the charges filed against them.</p> <p>The PNP was requested to submit an assessment report on the effectiveness of its training programs for uniformed personnel.</p> <p>The Committee reiterated its previous request from the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) to</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Security				submit complete data on the number of police personnel with pending criminal and administrative cases sourced from various offices.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 4774, 4688, 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, 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	Reps. Cua, Salceda, Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. 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, Cortuna, and Villafuerte	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-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	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 55 bills pertaining to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN). The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2002	Deputy Speaker Garcia- Albano	Creating the Davao International Airport Authority to administer and operate the Francisco Bangoy International Airport and providing funds therefor	The Committee agreed to refer back the substitute bill to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, from which the bill originates. Based on its study, the Committee on Ways and Means determined that the tax provision in the bill refers to local government taxes which is not within its jurisdiction.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 731, 2436,	Reps. Nogralas (K.A.),	Amending RA 7653, otherwise known as the New Central Bank Act	The Committee will deliberate further on the Substitute Bill to HBs 731, 2436, 3456 and 4283 in its next meeting.

Continuation... Ways and Means	3456 & 4283	Collantes, Oaminal, and Evardone		<p>Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Teresa Habitan said that the DOF objects to the provision in the bill that exempts the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) from the payment of taxes. She explained that the BSP already enjoys certain exemptions from the exercise of its governmental functions.</p> <p>BSP Assistant Governor Elmore Capule argued that the BSP is exempted from all kinds of taxes pursuant to RA 7653, or the New Central Bank Act of 1993.</p> <p>Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija) asked why it is only now that the BSP is seeking for tax exemption when its 5-year tax exemption privilege had already lapsed way back in 1998.</p> <p>Capule explained that the BSP, for the last two decades, has been asking Congress to amend the BSP charter which always included a proposal for exemption from taxes, but to no avail.</p> <p>The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) was requested to provide the Committee with data on the taxes being contested by the BSP.</p>
Welfare of Children	Substitute Bill to HBs 13, 1280, 2345, 3050 & 4676	Reps. Belmonte (F.), Belmonte (J.C.), Dalipe, Tambunting, and Nieto	Providing for the special protection of children in situations of armed conflict and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 321, 437, 2349, 3042 & 3943	Reps. Primicias-Agabas, Bravo (A.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Roque (H.), and Salon	Regulating the importation, manufacture, distribution and sale of children's toys, school supplies, childcare articles, and other related products containing hazardous chemicals, and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills with amendments.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 16th Congress.</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee on Proclamation No. 458 (Housing and Urban Development)	Status of implementation of Proclamation No. 458 series of 1994, reserving for socialized housing development certain parcels of land situated along the Manggahan Floodway in the Municipalities of Cainta and Taytay, Province of Rizal, and in the City of Pasig, Metro Manila, transferring to the National Housing Authority (NHA) the ownership of said government lands, and declaring the same open for disposition in favor of the qualified beneficiaries pursuant to RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 and Memorandum Order No. 191 dated 12 February 1994	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), agreed to hold another consultation meeting with concerned agencies and groups to check developments regarding the recommendations made in today's meeting as well as to discuss issues that are left unresolved relative to the implementation of Proclamation No. 458 s. 1994.</p> <p>Jenilyn David, secretary general of the Alliance of People's Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway (APOAMF), lamented that the local government of Pasig City is bent on evicting the informal settler families (ISFs) living along the Manggahan Floodway when the NHA is about to complete the housing units being built for them near their present settlement.</p> <p>NHA District Manager for East Sector Ma. Theresa Siat confirmed that low-rise buildings being built by the NHA, that can accommodate 240 of the remaining 395 qualified ISFs who are members of the APOAMF, will be ready for occupancy by July of this year. On the</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on Proclamation No. 458 (Housing and Urban Development)</p>		<p>other hand, the relocation site for the rest of the ISFs will be ready by October 2017.</p> <p>Engr. Josenar Caparas, representing the local government of Pasig City, disclosed that clearing operations will be conducted after the expiration of the Notices of Eviction issued to the ISFs living along the Manggahan Floodway, which is on May 24. He mentioned that Pasig City has developed and built both in-city and off-city relocation sites but claimed that no one from APOAMF volunteers to relocate.</p> <p>After listening to the manifestations of the resource persons, the Subcommittee came up with the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development to formally request the mayor of Pasig City to defer the execution of the demolition order against the affected ISFs until July 2017 when the construction of the low-rise buildings shall have been completed; • For the NHA and the APOAMF to immediately hold a mediation conference, to be facilitated by the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), to settle disagreements over the language of the sales contract as proposed by the NHA and other issues regarding the housing project; and • For the local government of Pasig City to study and consider the proposal of Housing and Urban Development Committee Chair, Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), to temporarily accommodate for one year the affected ISFs to the Eusebio Village, a low-cost housing project in Pasig City, until they are able to transfer to the NHA relocation site; For the APOAMF to keep an open mind to this arrangement.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4650	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.).	Renaming the Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University in the Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga as the Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU), and expanding its curricular offerings, amending for the purpose RA 9832 and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), approved with amendments the draft Substitute Bill to HB 4650.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>