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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Food Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937 & 767	Reps. Bordado, Banal, Bag-ao, and Aglipay-Villar	Creating a system of food distribution for addressing the nutritional needs of the people, providing for its procurement process, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by its Committee Secretary Cecilia Barbara Loanzon-Reyes, will deliberate further on the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937, and 767 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) manifested their support for the bill.</p>
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HBs 182, 1220 & 2388	Reps. Olivarez, Umali, and Abad	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation (EEC), enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to EEC projects	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to the eight measures, incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Trade and Industry - Board of Investments (DTI-BOI), Commission on Audit (COA), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), and the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Inc. (PE2) were directed to discuss among themselves and come up with uniform recommendations on the proposed law.</p> <p>DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau Director Patrick Aquino said that the Department proposes the creation of an inter-agency EEC Committee in order to provide strategic directions for the successful implementation of government energy efficiency and conservation programs.</p> <p>Aquino also said that the DOE proposes the creation of an Energy Efficiency Trust Fund (EETF), the initial funding of P150 million of which can be sourced from the Malampaya Funds.</p>
	HB 812	Rep. Batocabe	Requiring all government and non-government offices and establishments to adopt policies for energy conservation and efficient energy utilization measures	
	HB 1527	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Establishing an inter-agency energy conservation committee to deploy cost effective energy conservation measures and technologies	
	HB 970 & 2540	Reps. Romualdez and Tambunting	Requiring the use of energy-efficient lighting products, providing penalties for violations thereof	
	HB 3040	Rep. Roque (H.)	Prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of incandescent light bulbs, prescribing a phase-out period and providing penalties for violations thereof	

<p>Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 5158</p>	<p>Rep. Unabia</p>	<p>Providing for a socialized microfinancing program for micro enterprises, thereby promoting entrepreneurship</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), directed the Secretariat to prepare the draft substitute bill, incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons as agreed upon by the TWG.</p> <p>The bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Tan said that HB 5158, also known as the <i>Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-Asenso</i> Bill, aims to replace the “5-6” money lending scheme in the country and institutionalize a micro lending facility with an interest rate lower than the prevailing market rate. The <i>Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-Asenso</i> (P3) Program is an ongoing program of the government, which HB 5158 intends to institutionalize.</p> <p>She suggested that the proposed law’s financing programs should be made available to micro enterprises operating not just in the poorest provinces but even in other areas where there are micro enterprises needing financial assistance.</p> <p>Melvin Abanto, head of the Strategy, Policy and Communications Office of the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.), concurred with Rep. Tan, adding that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has already instructed to make the program available nationwide.</p> <p>SB Corp. is a government financial institution attached to the DTI.</p> <p>Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) inquired if the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) has data relative to the “5-6” money lending activities.</p> <p>BSP’s Inclusive Finance Advocacy Staff (IFAS) Director Pia Bernadette Roman-Tayag said it has none, explaining that it is difficult to obtain such data because of the very nature of this informal lending scheme.</p>
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