

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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## BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5633 & SB 1304	Rep. Hofer and Sen. Recto	Promoting universal access to quality tertiary education by providing for free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, and state-run technical-vocational institutions, establishing the tertiary education subsidy and student loan program, strengthening the unified student financial assistance system for tertiary education, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Chair of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and Sen. Francis 'Chiz' Escudero, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, approved the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on HB 5633 and SB 1304.</p> <p>Also present in the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), Celso Lobregat (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City), Ben Evardone (Eastern Samar), and Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS); on the part of the Senate, Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV and Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian.</p>
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5513 & SB 14	Speaker Alvarez & Sen. Drilon	Adjusting the amounts or the value of property and damage on which a penalty is based, and the fines imposed under the Revised Penal Code, amending for the purpose Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, as amended	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro), Chair of the House Committee on Justice, and Senator Franklin Drilon, Presiding Chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes, approved the reconciled version of HB 5513 and SB 14 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Abigail Faye Ferriol-Pascual (Party List-KALINGA), Victoria Isabel Noel (Party List-AN WARAY), and Rep. Joaquin Chipeco Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Laguna); on the part of the Senate, Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara.</p>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 882	Majority Leader Fariñas	Inquiry into the use by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte of its shares from the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes or the Special Support Fund under RA	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will deliberate further on the issues raised relative to HR 882 in another meeting.

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>			<p>7171 for a purpose other than those provided for by the said law, in its highly irregular purchase of motor vehicles made through cash advances without the benefit of public biddings for the total amount of P66.45 million</p>	<p>Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1<sup>st</sup> District, Ilocos Norte), author of HR 882, reiterated the issues raised in the resolution. He mentioned the alleged highly irregular purchases of motor vehicles -- 40 minicabs, 5 buses, and 70 mini trucks -- made by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte in 2011-2012, which violated the provisions of RA 7171 and the Government Procurement Reform Act.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee quizzed the officials and employees of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, the current and former auditors of the Commission on Audit (COA), and former Ilocos Norte provincial administrator Windell Chua, among others, about their knowledge of or involvement in the questioned transactions.</p> <p>While others responded accordingly, six employees from the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte refused to answer the queries of the House Members claiming that they could no longer remember the details of such transactions made several years ago. Instead, they requested that the original copy of the disbursement vouchers pertaining to the said purchases be shown to them so that they could validate if the signatures affixed to the vouchers were theirs.</p> <p>However, Majority Leader Fariñas countered that what they were asking for could not be produced, reminding them of a COA report stating that these documents are missing.</p> <p>With the continued refusal of the six employees to respond appropriately to the questions being asked, the Majority Leader moved that they be cited for contempt. The Committee approved the motion and ordered their detention in a facility in the House of Representatives. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedro Agcaoli Jr., Bids and Awards Committee Chair and Provincial Planning and Development Officer;</li> <li>• Josephine Calajate, Provincial Treasurer;</li> <li>• Evangeline Tabulog, Provincial Budget Officer;</li> <li>• Eden Battulayan, OIC Provincial Accountant;</li> <li>• Genedine Jambaro, employee of the Office of the Provincial Treasurer; and</li> <li>• Encarnacion Gaor, also with the Office of the Provincial Treasurer.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Pimentel remarked that the Committee will resume its inquiry, even during the congressional break if need be, should any of the six witnesses cited in contempt is ready to present a truthful testimony.</p> <p>Earlier, Rosa Maria Clemente, OIC deputy executive director of the Procurement Service-Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PS-PhilGEPS), gave a report on the dates when the invitation to bid, pre-bid conference, and the opening of the bid were conducted in relation to the purchase of the</p>
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Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				<p>buses and mini trucks, based on data from the PhilGEPS. She, however, disclosed that PhilGEPS has no such record relative to the purchase of the 40 minicabs.</p> <p>PhilGEPS, which is being managed by the Department of Budget and Management's Procurement Service, is a single, centralized electronic portal that serves as the primary and definitive source of information on government procurement.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga) noted, in particular, that the invitation to bid for the purchase of five buses amounting to P15.3 million was published only on May 24, 2012 and yet the check for the cash advance was issued to Jambaro immediately the day after or on May 25, 2012. Rep. Pimentel agreed with Rep. Bondoc that this transaction was highly anomalous because the check was issued even before the actual bidding was conducted.</p> <p>The Committee will issue a subpoena <i>duces tecum</i> to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer of Ilocos Norte to require the submission of the journals, ledgers and other books of account used relative to the three dubious transactions; and a subpoena <i>ad testificandum</i> to Ilocos Norte Provincial Governor Imee Marcos to compel her attendance in the Committee's next meeting.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	HB 1930	Rep. Uy (J.)	Establishing an extension program of the Mindanao University of Science and Technology (MUST) in the Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved HB 1930 subject to style and amendment and compliance with the requirements set by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).</p> <p>Rep. Juliette Uy (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Oriental) manifested that her explanatory note to HB 1930 be considered as her sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Philippine Association of State Colleges and Universities (PASUC) Executive Director Herbert Glenn Reyes said the bill will be discussed in the meeting of the PASUC Board of Regents this coming June 2017.</p>
	HBs 215, 1060, 1061, 1562, 1884, 1909, 2036, 2574, 2675, 2678, 2705, 2972, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3382, 3596, 3597, 4006, 4506, 4772, 4773, 4952, 5008, 5044, 5234, 5329, 5508 & 2901	Reps. Matugas, Espina, Deputy Speaker Garcia-Albano, Reps. Robes, Yap (M.), Roa-Puno, Rodriguez (M.), Tan (A.), Castelo, Ermita-Buhain, Vargas, Suansing (E.), Marquez, Sy-Alvarado, Zubiri, Violago, Almonte,	Providing for the establishment of TESDA training and accreditation centers in various parts of the country	<p>The Committee approved the 33 bills subject to style and amendment and compliance with the requirements set by TESDA.</p> <p>The bills will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the bills' appropriations provision.</p> <p>Biliran Rep. Rogelio Espina M.D. manifested that he is withdrawing HB 1061 and will only be pursuing his other bill, HB 1060.</p> <p>TESDA Executive Director for Planning Marissa Legaspi lauded the intent of the authors in providing their constituents access to technical education and training and in recognizing TESDA's role in honing the skills and</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education		Relampagos, Cortuna, Villarin, Sarmiento (E.), and Tejada		competencies of their workforce. However, Legaspi emphasized that there must be an adequate and sustainable funding support for these skills training centers to achieve their objectives.
	HB 2141	Rep. Go (M.)	Repealing RA 7834 and establishing the Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education (CSITE), integrating the technology institutions of the TESDA in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), providing for its powers, structure and funds	<p>The Committee approved HB 2141 subject to style and amendment and compliance with the requirements set by TESDA.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the bill's appropriations provision.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 2141, said that the establishment of CSITE will enhance the capability of the public technology institutions in CAR in providing quality, relevant and higher-level technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs.</p>
	HB 830	Deputy Speaker Andaya	Separating and converting the Camarines Sur Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (CASIFMAS) – Ragay campus located in the Municipality of Ragay, Camarines Sur into a TESDA-supervised school to be known as Ragay Technical Vocational Institute for Continuing Education (RTVICE) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 830 subject to style and amendment and compliance with the requirements set by TESDA.</p> <p>Rep. Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), who sponsored HB 830 in behalf of the author, Deputy Speaker Rolando Andaya Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Camarines Sur), said that the proposed separation and conversion of CASIFMAS-Ragay into RTVICE will benefit the disadvantaged and underserved students in the First District of Camarines Sur.</p>
	HB 5601	Rep. Hofer	Converting the Kabasalan Institute of Technology (KIT) in the Municipality of Kabasalan, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay into Zamboanga Sibugay Polytechnic College and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 5601 subject to style and amendment and compliance with the requirements set by TESDA.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Bacolod City Rep. Greg Gasataya, presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Hofer to sponsor her bill, HB 5601.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer said that the proposed conversion of KIT into a polytechnic college will provide the youth of Zamboanga Sibugay an additional option to obtain a diploma course which at present is not offered by KIT.</p> <p>TESDA and CHED expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HR 957	Rep. Uy (J.)	Inquiry into the dire consequences of the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) order to close the various Bukidnon State University External Studies Centers (BSU-ESCs) to students and communities in Misamis Oriental	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 957 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Uy, author of HR 957, said that the resolution calls for an inquiry into the issuance of CHED Resolution No. 338-2015 on April 27, 2015 that resulted in the closure and phase out of all BSU-ESCs in Misamis Oriental starting School Year 2016-2017 displacing more than 4,000 students in the province and depriving them of access to affordable tertiary education.</p> <p>CHED Quality Assurance Division Chief Sylvette Gunigundo said that the resolution was issued due to the non-compliance of BSU-ESCs with the policies and standards set by CHED.</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>On the Committee's appeal for CHED to rescind the closure order on the BSU-ESCs, Gunigundo said that the Commission en banc will have to discuss the matter.</p> <p>The Committee requested CHED to submit a list of requirements that were not complied with by BSU-ESCs and a report on the outcome of its deliberations on the appeal of the Committee.</p>
Metro Manila Development	HR 475	Rep. Batocabe	Investigation into the unabated, unplanned, and unsound land development in Metro Manila which worsened traffic conditions and contributed to urban blight	The Committee chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City) deferred its consideration of HR 475 due to the absence of the new Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Danilo Lim.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Substitute Bill to HB 3335	Rep. Noel	Promoting the development of entrepreneurship skills among government employees to inspire innovativeness and to ensure their productivity even beyond government service	The Committee, presided by Vice Chair Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Negros Oriental), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 3335 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style.
	Substitute Bill to HB 5158	Rep. Unabia	Providing a socialized microfinancing program for micro enterprises thereby promoting entrepreneurship	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 5158 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style. It agreed to adopt the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), that comprehensively discussed the bill.
	HB 4498	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Further promoting entrepreneurship by strengthening, empowering, and enhancing the financing programs for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), amending for the purpose RA 6977, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 4498.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bataan).</p> <p>Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan De Oro City), author of HB 4498, explained that the proposed law seeks to expand access of MSMEs to financing and other forms of support in line with the priorities and strategies of the present administration and in view of their important role in propelling the country's economic growth.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprises Development (BSMED) OIC/Assistant Director Alicia Opeña emphasized that the proposed extension of mandatory allocation of credit resources by all lending institutions to MSMEs for another 10 years, as espoused in the bill, will reopen the opportunities lost during the initial years that RA 6977 were not fully implemented.</p> <p>Export Development Council (EDC) Deputy Executive Director Emmarita Mijares fully supports the passage of the bill.</p> <p><i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i> (BSP) Inclusive Finance Advocacy Director Pia Bernadette Tayag pointed out the need to study the provision in the bill that increases the penalties on banks which are non-compliant with the mandatory lending to</p>

Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development				<p>MSMEs, saying that it might cause “unintended consequences” to the detriment of some banks which do not have the appropriate structure for lending to MSMEs.</p> <p>On the recommendation of Rep. Rodriguez for the BSP to encourage banks to put up a banking window for MSMEs, Tayag agreed with Rep. Rodriguez saying that her office focuses on expanding access to financial services of this underserved market.</p> <p>The Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.) of the DTI and the Commission on Audit (COA) were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
Welfare of Children	HB 894	Rep. Tan (A.)	Prohibiting the roaming, loitering or sleeping of unchaperoned children below 18 years of age at late hours of the evening outside their domicile and providing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 894.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 894, underscored the need to keep minors off the street at odd hours of the night and compel them to stay home in order to curb their exposure to criminality and other negative influences that may contribute to their delinquency.</p> <p>Majority of the resource persons present expressed support for the bill, and manifested their comments and recommendations, among which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include “foster parent” in the definition of terms (Sec. 4);</li> <li>• Revisit RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 which exempts “status offenses,” like curfew violations, from penalty if committed by a child, in relation to Section 7 (Penalties) of the bill;</li> <li>• Include the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), National Youth Commission (NYC), and civil society organizations (CSOs) providing programs and services to children in the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) (Sec. 8); and</li> <li>• Designate a place to house apprehended violators of curfew hours.</li> </ul> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HBs 2235 & 3581	Reps. Revilla and Macapagal- Arroyo	Prohibiting unattended children in motor vehicles	<p>The Committee approved HBs 2235 and 3581. The Secretariat will prepare a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite), author of HB 2235, believes that through this proposed legislation, the practice of leaving children unattended inside motor vehicles will significantly be reduced.</p> <p>Among the recommendations to the bill were the</p>

Continuation... Welfare of Children				<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the terms “child,” “unattended child,” and “motor vehicles;”</li> <li>• Identify the agency responsible in promulgating the IRR of the proposed law; and</li> <li>• Include the conduct of information dissemination and public awareness campaigns.</li> </ul> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bills.</p>
	HBs 1811 & 1852	Rep. Vargas	Protecting children from cigarette smoke exposure, amending for the purpose Sections 6 and 29 of RA 2911, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HBs 1811 and 1852.</p> <p>Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez (Party-List, ALONA) sponsored the bill on behalf of the author, Rep. Alfredo Vargas III (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City.</p> <p>Among the recommendations to the bill were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include “electronic cigarettes” within the scope of the bill;</li> <li>• Designate the Department of Health (DOH) as the lead agency in the implementation of this proposed law;</li> <li>• Exclude a representative from the tobacco industry in the membership of the Inter-Agency Committee that has the exclusive power and function to administer and implement the provisions of RA 2911;</li> <li>• Prohibit smoking and selling of cigarettes within 100-meter distance from the school; and</li> <li>• Conduct an information and dissemination campaign to effectively implement the proposed law.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Aggabao (4th District, Isabela) requested the DOH to submit a study on the harmful effects of electronic cigarettes.</p> <p>The resource persons present were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bills.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)	HB 299	Rep. Suansing (H.)	Granting health care, retirement, and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world championship titles in international professional sports competitions or in other equally prestigious international championship games and providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), will deliberate further on HB 299.</p> <p>Atty. Ermar Benitez, chief of the Legal Division of the Games and Amusements Board (GAB), recommended revising the definition of “professional Filipino athletes” to harmonize it with that of HB 4843, the bill strengthening the GAB.</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusements (Technical Working Group)				<p>Senior Vice President Nerissa Sugay of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) suggested that the health insurance to be provided to these athletes, as proposed under Section 4 (Health Care Benefits) of the bill, shall be sponsored by the GAB and the necessary funding shall be appropriated in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>Top officials of the Association of Philippine Professional Boxing Ring Officials (APPBRO), Philippine Boxing Federation (PBF), and the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines (PGAP) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Acop asked the stakeholders to submit their position papers to the Secretariat for consideration in the TWG's next meeting.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 449, 1518, 1721, 3375, 3639 & 5114	Reps. Belmonte (J.C.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Biazon, Castelo, Romero, and Bagatsing	Creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHUD), defining its mandate, powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN) of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), Vice Chair of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe underscored the urgency of the bill, saying that the creation of a housing department will resolve the institutional dilemma among key shelter agencies.</p> <p>Ann Rosslyn Tan, project evaluation officer at the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said that while she welcomes the creation of a new department, she believes that what matters most is having people who will properly implement and monitor the housing programs of the government.</p> <p>Rep. Salo suggested that the proposed takeover of unfinished, incomplete or abandoned real estate development projects under PD 957 or the law regulating the sale of subdivision lots and condominiums may be included in the law's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).</p> <p>Atty. Gerwin Panghulan, legal counsel of the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP), suggested that the ceiling price of housing units under the socialized housing program be mandatorily reviewed and revised every two years to conform to prevailing economic conditions.</p>
Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 589, 896, 1146, 1475, 1626, 1892, 3690 & 4556	Reps. Bataoil, Tan (A.), Alejano, Abayon, Castelo, Defensor, Macapagal-Arroyo, and	Strengthening the regulation of the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices, repealing for the purpose RA 7183 and providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Leopoldo Bataoil (2nd District, Pangasinan), deliberated on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>Senior Superintendent Conrado Gongon Jr., chief of the Explosives Management Division of the Philippine National Police (EMD-PNP), informed the TWG that a summit will be held to discuss the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)		Gatchalian		<p>7183. Stakeholders in the firecrackers and pyrotechnic industry will be invited to attend the summit. He also said that the PNP's recommendations were already incorporated in the draft substitute bill, specifically in Section 8 (Safety Guidelines on the Manufacture of Fireworks) and Section 9 (Regulation on the Use of Firecrackers).</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) said that if only RA 7183 and other regulatory measures were properly implemented, the safety of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices would not have been a huge problem in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bulacan) suggested that firecrackers should be properly labeled to help the law enforcers easily identify which products are prohibited by law.</p>
Social Services (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 2452, 1496, 1742, 3274, 4262 & 4373	Reps. Yap (A.), Abayon, Tan (A.), Roque (H.), Escudero, and Macapagal-Arroyo	Providing for tax relief during times of calamity	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Arthur Yap (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bohol), approved the draft substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
	HB 4322	Rep. Olivarez	Giving the persons affected by typhoons and other natural disasters in areas declared to be in a state of calamity moratorium, forbearance or grace period in the payment of utility bills	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on HB 4322 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association Inc. (PHILRECA) Deputy Executive Director Paul Balite proposed that the grant of such moratorium be extended to the entire chain of the electric industry, which would include not only the consumers but also the generating companies, transmission companies, and distribution utilities.</p> <p>Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD) Executive Vice President Carlos Santos Jr. agreed with Balite and recommended that the same concept be applied to the water industry.</p> <p>Rep. Yap said the comments and recommendations of the resource persons will be discussed with the bill's author.</p> <p>The public utility companies will be asked to submit their recommendations on what measures may be put in place to protect their interest if they are also affected by natural disasters.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Editorial Unit, Committee Management Support Service I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9326118; 9315001 local 7122.  
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