

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 119
May 31, 2017

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 5648 & SB 1449	Rep. Sarmiento (C.) & Senate President Pro-Tempore Recto	Rationalizing and strengthening the policy regarding driver's license by extending the validity period of driver's licenses, and penalizing acts in violation of its issuance and application, amending for the purpose Sec. 23 of RA 4136, as amended by BP 398 and EO 1011, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-presided by Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, and Senator Grace Poe, Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Services, approved the reconciled version of HB 5648 and SB 1449 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. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City), Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas), Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), Salvador Belaro Jr. (Party-List, 1-ANG EDUKASYON), and Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN); on the part of the Senate, Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto and Minority Leader Franklin Drilon.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
People's Participation	HB 3023	Rep. Roque (H.)	Ensuring the free exercise by the people of their right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, San Jose Del Monte City Rep. Florida Robes, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 3023 and 3789.
	HB 3789	Rep. Zarate	Strengthening the right of the people to free expression, to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances, repealing for the purpose BP 880 or the Public Assembly Act of 1985	<p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., author of HB 3023, said that his bill seeks to enact into law the ruling of the Supreme Court (SC) upholding the right of the people to peaceably assemble and mandating every city and municipality in the country to designate a freedom park where public demonstrations and meetings may be held at any time without the need of a permit.</p> <p>Rep. Roque recalled a criminal case filed against former Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz for alleged violation of BP 880 when he and some IBP members held a rally on Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola Bridge) near Malacañang in 2006 supposedly without a valid permit. The rally permit issued to them by then Manila Mayor Jose Atienza was modified indicating another venue instead of the original venue applied for.</p>

Continuation... People's Participation				<p>Rep. Roque said the IBP challenged the case up to the Supreme Court which ultimately held that it was the duty of the Manila City Mayor to grant the application for permit to hold a rally in Mendiola unless there was clear and convincing evidence that the public assembly would create danger to the public.</p> <p>Rep. Roque believes that the passage of this measure is necessary to prevent a similar incident from happening again.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), and League of Provinces of the Philippines manifested their support for the bill. They were requested to submit their position papers for the TWG's consideration.</p>
	HB 1598	Rep. Baguilat	<p>Providing for the accreditation of non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) eligible to access government funds and for the system of accountability and transparency for the use of these funds</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1598 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 8 of the bill, Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Institutional Development Bureau Director Marites Maristela informed the Committee that Section 65 of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2017 already decentralized the accreditation of civil society organizations (CSOs) to concerned government agencies to ensure that government funds are channelled only to legitimate CSOs.</p> <p>This, Maristela said, after the DSWD requested for the return of the function of accreditation to respective government agencies due to its lack of expertise in assessing programs and projects which do not concern social welfare and development.</p> <p>Section 8 of the bill mandates the DSWD to be the central accrediting agency for non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) and a repository agency of all the database for accredited NGOs/POs seeking to be entrusted with government funds from any government organization.</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Ireneo Vizmonte expressed support for the bill but suggested that a provision be included requiring the Commission on Audit (COA) to audit the use of government funds by these NGOs and POs.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their position papers on the bill.</p>
Public Works and Highways	HR 134	Rep. Bondoc	<p>Reviving the Pampanga River Control System (PRCS) and including it in the yearly budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), will deliberate further on HR 134 in its next meeting.</p> <p>DPWH Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) Project Director Patrick Gatan presented the recommendations of the DPWH, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRCS will just be integrated in the UPMO -

Continuation... Public Works and Highways				<p>Flood Control Management Cluster (UPMO-FCMC) considering that the latter is responsible for overseeing the planning and construction of major flood control structures in the major river basins, including the Pampanga River;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UPMO-FCMC will have jurisdiction over the existing Pinatubo-related projects under the Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project (PHUMP); and • The UPMO-FCMC should get an annual fund allocation for maintenance operations and acquisition of dredging equipment and other maintenance equipment for use in the Pampanga River Basin and its tributaries. <p>However, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region 3 Chief Economic Development Specialist Marciano Franco said that NEDA and the Regional Development Council (RDC) of Central Luzon both concur with HR 134, recommending the revival of the PRCS as the lead office under the DPWH that will take charge of the flood control system along the Pampanga River to prevent serious flooding in Central Luzon.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat suggested that if the Central Luzon RDC agrees with the proposal, it should issue a resolution signifying such concurrence and submit it to the Committee.</p>
	HR 10	Rep. Lobregat	Urging the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to support the proposed Zamboanga City Impounding Dam Project and to include it in the priority project listing of the national government	<p>The Committee terminated its deliberation on HR 10. It agreed to designate the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) and the DPWH as co-implementor of the Zamboanga City Impounding Dam Project.</p> <p>The Committee likewise agreed that the ZCWD and the Zamboanga City local government will shoulder the cost of feasibility study for the project in the amount of P25 million, while the DPWH will cover the cost of pre-engineering in the same amount of P25 million.</p> <p>The meeting was presided over by Rep. Deogracias Ramos Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon) to allow Rep. Lobregat to sponsor his resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Lobregat recalled that the Committee already adopted HR 10 during its previous meeting but it had to identify first the appropriate implementing agency for the Zamboanga City Impounding Dam Project before NEDA could include it in the priority project listing of the national government.</p> <p>National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Deputy Administrator Estrella Icasiano expressed interest in the project if there will be an irrigation component to it.</p>