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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 1319 & 5595	Reps. Velarde and Sarmiento (C.)	Providing for the special protection of child passengers in motor vehicles	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., terminated its deliberation on the substitute bill after hearing the views and recommendations of the resource persons. The substitute bill, as amended, will be reported back to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Velarde recalled that the substitute bill was referred back to the TWG to thresh out certain issues, namely: the bill being allegedly anti-poor; the difficulty of enforcing the proposed law; and the availability of child restraint devices in the local market and the required product specifications.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary Mark De Leon voiced out the objection of public utility vehicles (PUVs) to this additional requirement, citing numerous devices that are already being required of them such as speed limiters, CCTV cameras, and GPS devices. He said, however, that a child restraint system may be required from taxis and transport network vehicle service (TNVS) which operate like private transport.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Impounding and Inspectorate Division Director Victor Nuñez suggested that the regulation on car tints should be strictly enforced or reviewed to facilitate the enforcement of the proposed law. A very heavy or dark tint in private vehicles makes it difficult for traffic enforcers to ascertain whether the safety of the child on board is aptly protected.</p> <p>Superintendent Oliver Tanseco of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Highway Patrol Group (HPG) mentioned that the Land Transportation Office (LTO) is already planning to issue an order governing car tints.</p> <p>Tanseco, along with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) representative Vincent Fernandez, agreed that the mandatory testing of child restraint systems should use as benchmark the standards set forth in the United Nations' (UN) Regulations 44 and 129, as already stated in Section 6 of the bill.</p> <p>Representatives from the government sector, business sector, civil society organizations, and the academe were one in saying that the bill is not anti-poor and that the safety of the children is of paramount importance than concerns on costs on the part of vehicle owners or PUV operators.</p>