

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health	HBs 918 & 3657	Reps. Roque (H.) & Tan (A.)	Establishing a Health Promotion Fund and Health Promotion Commission to oversee the implementation of health promotion in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to further discuss the two bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>The TWG will be headed by Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera (Party-List, MATA).</p> <p>Committee Vice-Chair, Rep. Sandra Young Eriguel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, La Union), presided over the meeting to allow the Committee Chair to sponsor her bill, HB 3657.</p> <p>Rep. Tan said her bill seeks the creation of a central agency, which will have adequate and sustainable financing, and some degree of financial independence, to fully undertake health promotion activities, like health education, social mobilization and advocacy.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo proposed that the Health Promotion Commission be placed under the supervision of the DOH, otherwise the establishment of another health promotion agency separate from the DOH will result in duplication of functions.</p> <p>Bayugo's sentiment was shared by the other resource persons present during the meeting.</p>
	HRs 444 & 480	Rep. Tan (A.) & Suansing (E.)	Inquiry into the school-based immunization of tetravalent dengue vaccine of the Department of Health (DOH) for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of the public	<p>The Committee decided to suspend its deliberations on HRs 444 and 480 in today's meeting and to resume the inquiry in the next scheduled hearing on November 29.</p> <p>This decision of the Committee was in deference to KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo who questioned the non-inclusion of former DOH Secretary Janette Garin, whose testimony is very vital to the inquiry, among the invited resource persons in today's meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Secretary informed the body that Garin is scheduled to appear on November 29.</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)	HBs 2, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop & Suansing (E.)	Proposed Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility Act	<p>The Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms, chaired by Committee Vice Chair Rep. Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), listened to the resource persons from the Ateneo Department of Psychology, Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO), and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) on their respective positions relative to lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility to either 9 or 12 years of age, based on the bills under consideration.</p> <p>Associate Professor Dr. Lianne Alampay, Ph.D. of the Ateneo Department of Psychology cited a recent brain research study which revealed that a fully developed brain is achieved during the early 20s. Below this age, Alampay said, a person's capability to act or discern on what is right or wrong is still developing, including his capacity to control his impulse and regulate himself. Thus, Alampay concluded that offenders aged 9 or 12 should not be considered culpable for the crimes they commit.</p> <p>DSWD Undersecretary Vilma Cabrera manifested the Department's position to retain the existing minimum age of 15 to conform to the country's commitment under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>DOJ State Counsel Shiara Mangoba concurs with the statement of Cabrera, saying that the DSWD determines the courses of action to take on child offenders.</p> <p>JJWC Executive Director Tricia Oco said that lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility would only cause child offenders to repeat their crimes in the future when sent to jail at an early age.</p> <p>PAYO President Victoria Diaz is likewise against the lowering of the minimum age of child offenders, arguing that the problem lies with the poor implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (RA 9344).</p> <p>On the other hand, representatives from the PNP, NBI and PAO favor the proposal to lower the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old.</p> <p>Reps. Tobias "Toby" Tiangco (Lone District, Navotas), Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), and Edward Maceda (4<sup>th</sup> District, Manila) shared the same position of the law</p>

Continuation... Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms (Justice)				<p>enforcement agencies.</p> <p>On the other hand, Party-List Reps. Jose Atienza Jr. (BUHAY), Tom Villarin (AKBAYAN), and Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Bagong Henerasyon) opposed the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Other Members of the Committee present during the meeting recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International commitments must be made to adapt to local law and culture;</li> <li>• The DSWD should be the lead agency that shall determine the list of experts who have the authority to discuss the issues at hand;</li> <li>• There is a need to present more updated statistical data on the matter; and</li> <li>• The root cause of criminality, such as poverty and corruption, should also be taken into account.</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the implications of lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility to the country's current treaty obligations.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 176, 1348 & 3837	Reps. Nograles (K.), Acop & Herrera-Dy	Defining and providing for stiffer penalties on the offense of illegal and indiscriminate discharge of firearms, thereby amending Article 254 of Act 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code and RA10591, or the law providing for a comprehensive law on firearms and ammunition	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat), will submit its report on the draft substitute bill to the mother Committee for its consideration.

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	Report by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on its assessment of the 2016 national and local elections	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), listened to the report of Comelec Chair Andres Bautista on the poll body's assessment of the 2016 national and local elections.</p> <p>Bautista reported significant improvements in the 2016 elections as compared to the 2013 elections. In terms of voters turnout, he said that 81.95% of the 54.36 million total registered voters in 2016 went out to vote, compared to 77.57% of the 51.34 million registered voters in 2013.</p> <p>Likewise, Bautista mentioned the establishment of accessible polling</p>

<p>Continuation...  Suffrage and Electoral  Reforms</p>		<p>places for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) and lesser number of election protests and election related violence, attributing these to Comelec's improved election services.</p> <p>Moving forward, Bautista said that Comelec will continue to consult and dialogue with the different stakeholders, enhance its independence, adopt international best practices, and push for legislative reforms towards a clean, honest, and credible election.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee raised various issues, including the effectiveness of the vote counting machines (VCMs). Bautista said that the diagnostic study of the VCM, which will be completed by February 2017, will enable the Comelec to arrive at a decision of whether to refurbish, lease or procure VCMs for the 2019 elections. Bautista disclosed that more than P5 billion was spent by the government for the procurement and lease of the VCM during the 2010 and 2016 elections.</p> <p>Bautista stressed that Comelec should be given ample time to prepare for the 2019 elections in reference to coming up with a decision on whether to refurbish, lease or procure VCM's. He invited the Members of the Committee to conduct an ocular inspection of the VCM warehouse in Cabuyao, Laguna in order to see for themselves the present state of the machines, as well as the VCMs' maintenance and storage systems.</p> <p>The Comelec was requested to submit to the Committee a report on the reliability of using the VCM during the 2010, 2013 and 2016 national and local elections.</p>
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