

# Committee Daily Bulletin

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HB 2912	Rep. Amatong	Establishing the Philippine Rubber Industry Development Board (PhilRubber), defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. (Party-List, ANAC-IP), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Isagani Amatong (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte), to fine-tune HB 2912.</p> <p>The bill seeks to create the PhilRubber, to be attached under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which shall take charge of promoting the development and growth of the rubber industry.</p> <p>The DTI, through its National Rubber Industry Cluster Coordinator (NRICC) Director Sitti Amina Jain, was requested to make a comparative study on the proposal to create the PhilRubber in relation to an existing law, RA 10089 or the Philippine Rubber Research Institute (PRRI) Act of 2010.</p> <p>Pursuant to RA 10089, an advisory board has been created composed of representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), PRRI, and one representative each from the rubber producers and processors. The advisory board is mandated to develop policies and programs aimed at improving the state of technologies needed for the Philippine rubber industry in order to meet global standards for competitiveness and product quality.</p>
	HB 3355	Deputy Speaker Garin	Amending RA 1556, otherwise known as the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act of 1956	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), to fine-tune HB 3355.</p> <p>The bill seeks to update the decades old law to make it attuned to the demands of the present time.</p> <p>The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the DA was requested to submit to the Committee its position paper including its recommendations to the proposed measure.</p>
	HBs 3540, 3700 & 3985	Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps.	Promoting the scientific propagation, processing, utilization and development of	The Committee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Deputy Speaker Garin, to study the

Continuation... Agriculture and Food		Antonio and Aglipay-Villar	Philippine native animals, thereby creating the Philippine Native Animal Development Center	<p>bills further.</p> <p>Rep. Alberto Ungab (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Davao City) underscored the need to clearly define the term "native animals" in order for the proposed law to be properly implemented.</p> <p>Rep. Michelle Antonio (Party-List, AGBIAG), author of HB 3700, explained that the term is already properly defined under Section 3 of the proposed measures. Based on the three bills, the term "native animals" shall refer to "animals found in one geographical location that developed unique physical characteristics, behavior, product attributes, adapted to the local environment and are products of selection with no infusion of exotic breed for at least five generations."</p> <p>Dr. Rene Santiago, Agricultural Center Chief of BAI's National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center, informed the Committee that the BAI already established a list of varieties of Philippine native animals in collaboration with the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UP-LB).</p>
	HB 626	Rep. Gonzalez	Creating a carabao center in the City of Ligao, Province of Albay, amending for the purpose RA 7307, or the law creating the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) to propagate and promote the Philippine carabao	<p>The Committee deferred its consideration of HB 626 until such time that a particular location in Ligao City for the establishment of the carabao center shall have been identified and agreed upon.</p> <p>PCC Executive Director Dr. Liberato Cruz reported that there are at present 13 carabao centers throughout the country but not one of them is located in the Bicol Region which has the largest population of buffalos in the country.</p> <p>The PCC was requested to submit to the Committee its position paper on the proposed law.</p>
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HB 2576	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Strengthening the rules on the proper use and display of the country's national symbols and the rendition of the National Anthem, repealing for the purpose RA 8491, otherwise known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), reconsidered its previous approval of the Substitute Bill to HB 2576 to incorporate additional amendments proposed by some Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Committee finally approved with amendment the Substitute Bill to HB 2576 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HB 753	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Expanding the definition of a book and the benefits attendant thereto, amending for this purpose RA 8047, otherwise known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>On the manifestation of the Members of the Committee that the Department of Education (DepEd) should be present to give its comment on the bills and to respond to their queries, Rep. Escudero said that the Committee will again invite the DepEd and will "strongly urge" its officials' presence in the next meeting.</p>
	HB 1033	Rep. Castelo	Creating the National Textbook Review Board and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 3662	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Mandating that educational curriculum and the consequent preparation of textbooks	

<p>Continuation... Basic Education and Culture</p>			<p>and related materials should have continuity and stability, and that the same should not be affected for a period of at least six years, amending for the purpose RA 8047</p>	<p>On the question raised by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) whether the National Book Development Board (NBDB) has been consulted by the DepEd following reports on textbook errors and pursuant to Section 10 (Public School and Textbook Publishing) of RA 8047, NBDB Chair Flor Marie Sta. Romana-Cruz said that Section 10 of RA 8047 has not been implemented.</p> <p>Section 10 of RA 8047 provides that the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (now DepEd) shall consult the NBDB in prescribing the guidelines, rules and regulations in preparing the minimum learning competencies and/or prototypes and other specifications for books required by public elementary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Concurring with the statement of Sta. Romana-Cruz, Atty. Dominador Buhain, former NBDB chair and currently the chair and president of REX Group of Companies, said that since 1995, when the law was passed, up to the present time, the NBDB was never consulted by the DepEd with regard to this provision in the law.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go chided the NBDB for allowing this to happen considering that the DepED sits as one of the members of the Board.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Escudero on the mandate of the NBDB, Sta. Romana-Cruz said that the Board is mandated to promote the continuing development of the book publishing industry by providing seminars or workshops and incentives to private sector publishers, authors and writers to ensure the quality of books and other supplementary learning materials being produced and published. She clarified that the NBDB does not focus on textbooks used by public elementary and secondary schools.</p> <p>The Committee acceded to the request of Rep. Go to invite Antonio Calipjo Go who made a comprehensive report and assessment of DepEd's textbooks. (Go is a private school owner best known for exposing factual, grammatical, and logical errors in textbooks used in public schools in the Philippines.)</p>
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CONSULTATIVE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p>Discussion on the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 &amp; 4628 (Strengthening the Balik Scientist Program and appropriating funds therefor)</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), held a consultative meeting to discuss with the agencies involved in the implementation of the Balik Scientist Program the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1204, 2900, 4366 and 4628.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of</p>

<p>Continuation... Science and Technology</p>		<p>Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>William Padolina, former secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), proposed that to further entice “balik scientist” awardees to stay longer in the country, their spouse, who are non-Filipinos but are practicing a similar profession, must be given equal opportunity to be hired in the country. It was agreed upon during the meeting that a separate bill will be drafted to address this concern.</p> <p>Padolina also advised the Committee that <i>balik</i> scientists who hold a dual citizenship would need to renounce their foreign citizenship in order to be hired by the government, pursuant to Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 23 Series of 2016.</p> <p>However, Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur), author of HB 1204, clarified that the CSC circular is not applicable to the program awardees whose employment is classified as project-based and not as a permanent employee of the government.</p> <p>The CSC circular states that “a person with dual citizenship shall not be appointed in the government unless he/she renounces his/her foreign citizenship.”</p> <p>The Committee agreed to incorporate in the draft substitute bill the amendments discussed during the meeting. The revised bill will be presented to the Committee in its next regular meeting.</p>
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