

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. I No. 61
January 23, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	HBs 1583, 1942, 2635, 2771, 3427 & 3452	Reps. Vargas, Santos-Recto, Gatchalian, Salceda, Tan (S.), and Villarín	Providing full tuition subsidy for students enrolled in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study and harmonize the 50 bills providing free education to qualified students.</p> <p>The authors present during the meeting manifested that the explanatory note to their bills be registered as their respective sponsorship speeches.</p> <p>Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Minella Alarcon signified the CHED's support to the proposed measures, and promised to submit to the Committee its position paper.</p> <p>Jephte Muñoz, a consultant of the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board, reported that the Board, in its previous meeting, agreed that the guidelines for the first year of implementation of the free tuition fee program pursuant to RA 10687 is set to be finalized by February 15, 2017.</p> <p>He mentioned that RA 10687 or the UniFAST Law, which was enacted on July 27, 2015, provides for a comprehensive and unified financial assistance system for tertiary education in both public and private institutions, including scholarships, grants-in-aid, and student loans.</p> <p>Reps. Hofer and Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City) asked the CHED to submit a report on the actual number of enrollees per SUC in every province and the actual cost of tuition per SUC before the TWG's scheduled meeting next week, to determine the impact of the proposed measures on public funds.</p> <p>The Members of the Committee agreed to invite CHED Chair Patricia Licuanan, as well as representatives from the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) and the Private Education Retirement Annuity Association (PERAA), to attend the TWG meeting.</p>
	HBs 813 & 4341	Reps. Batocabe and Villanueva	Providing free college education to one public high school graduate in a family	
	HB 2596	Rep. Santos-Recto	Granting free tertiary education to the top five percent graduates of public science high schools pursuing a degree in the field of Science and Technology, Mathematics and Engineering	
	HBs 33, 1091 & 3149	Reps. Del Mar, Lanete, and Alejano	Providing free college education in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) courses in SUCs	
	HBs 181, 1228, 1652, 3704, 4256 & 4483	Reps. Crisologo, Umali, Angara-Castillo, Romualdez, Belaro, and Castelo	Providing free college education for indigent students	
	HB 578	Rep. Panganiban	Providing a national scholarship program for indigenous peoples (IPs), appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 290, 2458 & 2472	Reps. Romero, Yap (A.), and Geron	Providing scholarship in agriculture courses	
	HBs 1590, 2984, 3193 & 3852	Reps. Fuentebella, Antonio, Espino, and Salon	Granting college scholarship to legitimate dependent children of farmers and fisherfolks enrolled in SUCs and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 4146 & 4147	Rep. Lazatin	Providing scholarship grants to children of active members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1089	Rep. Lanete	Providing free primary, secondary and tertiary education courses in SUCs	
	HB 1432	Rep. Belaro	Granting free tuition fees to teachers' dependents	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HBs 1445 & 3708	Reps. Belaro and Bolilia	Granting scholarship to teachers pursuing graduate/post-graduate studies	
	HB 3959	Rep. Gatchalian	Providing a scholarship program for students enrolling in teacher education and providing incentives for teaching in public schools	
	HBs 898, 2166, 2951, 3472 & 3586	Reps. Tan (A.), Santos-Recto, Herrera-Dy, and Deputy Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo	Establishing a medical scholarship program and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 1367	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing a midwifery scholarship and placement program and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 806	Rep. Batocabe	Instituting a public administration and governance scholarship program	
	HB 1810	Rep. Vargas	Establishing a national scholarship program for studies in Nuclear Science and Nuclear Engineering	
	HBs 1195, 1433, 2819, 3388 & 4298	Reps. Loyola, Belaro, Suansing (E.), Deputy Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, and Rep. Cortuna	Institutionalizing a student loan program in tertiary education	
	HB 4226	Rep. Belaro	Providing assistance to Filipino overseas graduate students	
	HB 1067	Rep. Lanete	Providing book subsidy to qualified students in the tertiary education and providing funds therefor	
	HB 1447	Rep. Belaro	Creating the National Center for Scholarships	
	HB 3707	Rep. Roman	Establishing the National Scholarship Agency, providing funds therefor, amending for this purpose RA 10687 or the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST)	
Legislative Franchises	HB 1941	Rep. Espino	Granting the Gulf Waves Communications Corporation (GWCC) a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Franz "Chicoy" Alvarez (1st District, Palawan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with recommendations on the bill, taking into consideration the comments made during the meeting.</p> <p>AKO Bicol Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe asked the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) how the bill can cover other operations of franchise applicants, aside from radio and television broadcasting, that involve the use of the internet and other information and communications technologies.</p> <p>NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios said that franchise grantees can operate new and emerging technologies, like the internet, if this is stated in the legislative franchise itself.</p>

Continuation... Legislative Franchises	HB 1422	Rep. Cosalan	Renewing the franchise granted to Satellite Paging Systems Philippines, Inc. (presently known as Now Telecom Company, Inc.) under RA 7301, as amended by RA 7940, or the law granting the Satellite Paging Systems Philippines, Inc. a franchise to construct, establish, operate and maintain radio paging systems and trunked radio systems within the Philippines for a period of 25 years	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 1422 in its next meeting.</p> <p>To determine the financial capacity of Now Telecom to operate and maintain its radio paging systems, Rep. Batocabe required the company to submit its financial statements, income tax returns (ITRs) for the past 25 years, and other pertinent documents.</p> <p>Now Telecom Company's Corporate Secretary Angeline Macasaet said that the company can only submit a copy of its ITRs for the last three years and a copy of the general information sheet submitted annually to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).</p> <p>When asked by Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur) if the company is applying for tax exemptions, Macasaet answered in the negative.</p> <p>On the request of KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Harry Roque Jr., Macasaet promised to submit her company's business plan and other related documents.</p> <p>The NTC endorsed the approval of the bill.</p>
	HB 3864	Rep. Go (M.)	Amending and renewing the franchise granted to Beta Broadcasting System, Inc. to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 3864 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to delete Section 8 (Tax Provisions) of the bill because, according to Rep. Batocabe, all legislative franchise holders are required to pay all taxes, duties, fees or charges and other impositions under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 and other applicable laws, unless granted an exemption.</p> <p>The NTC endorsed the approval of the bill.</p>
	HB 4464	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Renewing the franchise granted to Subic Broadcasting Corporation under Republic Act 7511 or the law granting the Subic Broadcasting Corporation a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines for another 25 years	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4464 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato) apprised the Committee of the track record and various accomplishments of the Subic Broadcasting Corporation for the past 25 years.</p> <p>Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa (2nd District, Cebu City) underscored the need to monitor the compliance of grantees with the provisions of their respective franchises, and to revoke their franchise if they fail to do so.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to invite the SEC to give its comments on the franchise bills.</p>