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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HB 3353	Rep. Uybareta	Institutionalizing the Electric Cooperatives Disaster Management Fund and providing funds therefor, amending for the purpose certain laws	The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.
	HB 4408	Rep. Uybareta	Creating an Energy Disaster Trust Fund for electric cooperatives (ECs) and providing funds therefor	<p>Rep. Carlos Roman Uybareta (Party-List, 1-CARE), author of HBs 3353 and 4408, underscored the need to set aside funds that will be readily accessible to ECs for the purpose of restoring and rehabilitating transmission and distribution lines and other facilities of ECs damaged by calamities.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), co-author of HB 4408, also emphasized the importance of government's prompt financial assistance so that the ECs will not have to secure loans, the cost of which is passed on to the member-consumers through higher power rates.</p> <p>National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Edgardo Masongsong expressed support for the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Wendell Ballesteros, general manager of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), also conveyed his support to the bills, citing the pressure on ECs to restore power right away after a calamity.</p> <p>Asked by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) on how the Malampaya funds are being utilized, Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix William Fuentesbella said that the Malampaya funds are utilized basically for energy resource development pursuant to PD 910.</p> <p>PD 910 provides for the creation of an Energy Development Board that is tasked to formulate policies and implement and coordinate all the activities of the government relative to the exploration, exploitation and development, and extraction of energy resources.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) questioned the grant of government subsidy to</p>

Continuation... Energy				<p>the ECs to pay for their liabilities, arguing that the ECs should have already calculated the risks associated with fortuitous events or calamities knowing that the country is frequently hit by typhoons.</p> <p>Rep. Uybareta explained that ECs are non-profit entities whose electric rates are regulated by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).</p> <p>The DOE was requested to submit its position paper within the week for the TWG's consideration.</p> <p>The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) will be invited to attend the next TWG meeting.</p>
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 292	Rep. Vergara	Inquiry into the alleged illegal practices in the Bureau of Immigration (BI)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), assumed jurisdiction over HR 292.</p> <p>In her resolution, Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) denounced the alleged tampering of her immigration documents, specifically those related to the renunciation of her foreign citizenship, purportedly to support the disqualification case filed against her.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel clarified that the Committee's inquiry will be confined to the alleged mishandling of the immigration documents of Rep. Vergara. The Secretariat was directed to invite the BI officers and persons in charge of the said documents and alluded to by Rep. Vergara to shed light on the issue.</p>
	HRs 565, 588 & 591	Reps. Herrera-Dy, Belmonte (J.C.), and Gatchalian	Inquiry into the circumstances that compelled Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Director Francisco Jose Villa Jr. to commit suicide, including the alleged pressure from ERC Chair and Chief Executive Officer Jose Vicente Salazar to approve contracts without proper bidding and due adherence to procedure, as well as allegations of corruption behind ERC deals	<p>The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HRs 565, 588 and 591.</p> <p>BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy underscored the importance of maintaining transparency and integrity in all bidding and procurement processes in the ERC, and called for the suspension of key ERC officials implicated by the late ERC Director based on his "suicide notes."</p>
	HR 708	Rep. Bondoc	Inquiry into the grossly disadvantageous and highly irregular lease agreement between the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Vanderwood Management Corporation	<p>The Committee assumed jurisdiction over HR 708.</p> <p>Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. (Party-List, 1-ANG EDUKASYON), co-author of HR 708, disclosed that PAGCOR entered into a P3.3 billion, 15 year-lease contract with Vanderwood Management Corporation for the use of a place where PAGCOR's casino gaming facility will be put up.</p> <p>He went on to say that PAGCOR paid Vanderwood a total of P234 million representing 12 months of advance rentals and six months security deposit. However, the</p>

Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability				Commission on Audit (COA) disallowed the payments for this transaction because the premises to be leased to PAGCOR was not yet existing at the time of the execution of the contract, aside from other irregularities COA found out after conducting an audit.
	HR 444	Rep. Tan (A.)	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	The Committee decided to request the Committee on Rules to refer HRs 444 and 480 to the Committee on Health. This decision was reached upon representation by Reps. Angelina "Helen" Tan (4 th District, Quezon) and Estrelita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija), who appealed to the Committee to relinquish its jurisdiction over HRs 444 and 480, saying that the Committee on Health already had extensive deliberations on the issue and, in fact, has already drafted the corresponding Committee Report.
	HR 480	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Investigation into the National Dengue Prevention and Control Program of the DOH, reviewing the processing and registration of the dengue vaccine including the contract to purchase from Sanofi Pasteur, examining relevant research and studies on the efficacy and safety of the vaccine and proposing remedial measures that promote public safety	
	Privilege Speech 125	Rep. Leachon	On the alleged irregularities in the procurement and the misappropriation of public funds relative to the dengue vaccination program of DOH amounting to P3.5 billion	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the privilege speech delivered last November 28, 2016 by Rep. Doy Leachon (1 st District, Oriental Mindoro). Rep. Pimentel explained that the issues raised in the privilege speech fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee as they pertain to alleged irregularities in the procurement of vaccines for the dengue vaccination program of the DOH. On the other hand, HRs 444 and 480 put emphasis on the efficacy and safety of the vaccine.
Privilege Speech 133	Rep. Tambunting	On the alleged operation of an unlicensed online gaming owned by Jack Lam in Pampanga and the illegal employment of foreign nationals as workers in the said gaming establishment	The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the privilege speech delivered last December 5, 2016 by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City). Rep. Tambunting stressed the need to resolve the issue on whether the PAGCOR and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) shall both continue to regulate online gaming corporations, and to determine how these corporations and their employees are being taxed.	
Local Government	HB 4507	Speaker Alvarez	Dividing Barangay Magugpo in the City of Tagum, Province of Davao del Norte into five distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangays Magugpo Poblacion, Magugpo East, Magugpo West, Magugpo North, and Magugpo South	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Pedro Acharon Jr. (1 st District, South Cotabato and General Santos City), approved HB 4507 and its corresponding Committee Report.
	HB 4496	Majority Leader Fariñas	Subdividing the one-barangay Municipality of Dumalneg in the Province of Ilocos Norte into three distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangays Kalaw, Cabaritan and Quibel	The Committee approved HB 4496 and its corresponding Committee Report.
	HBs 214, 284, 867,	Reps. Matugas, Dalog, Yap (V.),	Creation of barangays in certain parts of the country, particularly in the provinces of	The Committee approved the Committee Reports on the 22 measures.

Continuation... Local Government	1109, 1327, 1516, 1926, 1927, 2003, 2500, 2924, 3424, 3839, 3840, 3841, 3842, 3843, 3844, 3845, 3848, 3849 & 3850	Baguilat, Gatchalian, Adiong, Uy (J.), Garcia-Albano, Hofer, Villanueva, & Campos, and Deputy Speaker Cayetano	Surigao del Norte, Mountain Province, Tarlac, Ifugao, Lanao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Davao and Zamboanga Sibugay, and in the cities of Valenzuela, Makati and Taguig	
	HB 611	Rep. Collantes	Converting the Municipality of Sto. Tomas in the Province of Batangas into a component city to be known as the City of Sto. Tomas	The Committee approved HB 611. Supporting the approval of HB 611, Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto (6 th District, Batangas), former governor of Batangas, informed the Committee that the Municipality of Sto. Tomas has fully complied with the requirements for its conversion into a component city, adding that the town is very much capable of operating as a component city given its existing resources and rate of progress.
	HB 2341	Rep. Ferrer (L.)	Creating the lone legislative district of General Trias, thereby reapportioning certain legislative districts in the Province of Cavite	The Committee approved HB 2341 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4633	Rep. Zamora (M.C.)	Renaming the Province of Compostela Valley into Davao de Oro Province, amending for the purpose pertinent provisions of RA 8470, or the law creating the Province of Compostela Valley	The Committee approved HB 4633 with amendment. A new provision will be included in the bill identifying the source of funds for the conduct of a plebiscite. Rep. Ruwel Peter Gonzaga (2 nd District, Compostela Valley), co-author of HB 4633, said that majority of his constituents wish to be identified as part of the Davao Region. The name Davao de Oro was also chosen given the province's abundant gold resource.
Public Order and Safety	Substitute Bill to HBs 2993 & 4339	Reps. Matugas and Acop	Strengthening the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP- CIDG) by restoring its authority to issue <i>subpoena ad testificandum</i> or <i>subpoena duces tecum</i> , amending for the purpose Section 35 (B)(4) of RA 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2 nd District, Antipolo City), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 2993 and 4339.
	HB 1341	Rep. Acop	Renaming the Hilltop Rizal Philippine National Police (PNP) Command in Taytay, Rizal as Camp General Licerio Geronimo	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 1341.
	HBs 421, 1393 & 3699	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Reps. Amante and Antonio	Prohibiting the dissemination of false information on the presence of bombs, explosives and other incendiary devices in high density or sensitive places and providing penalties therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG), to be chaired by Rep. Manuel Lopez (1 st District, Manila), to consolidate HBs 421, 1393 and 3699. Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Jane Garcia and Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Raoul Creencia signified their support for the bills.

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) said it is important to get the comments of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) on how capable the government is in tracing the source of or determining the identity of people disseminating false information regarding bomb threats or presence of bombs or explosives in certain places.</p> <p>Rep. Acop instructed the Committee secretariat to draft a “strongly worded letter” to the Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), for the Chair’s signature, demanding an explanation for the PNP’s failure to send a representative to the meeting who can speak with authority in behalf of the PNP.</p>
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms	HB 45	Deputy Speaker Quimbo	Amending Section 9 of RA 10366, or the law authorizing the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to establish precincts assigned to accessible polling places exclusively for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and senior citizens	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) that will be tasked to deliberate further on the bills and come up with recommendations that will reduce or avoid the disenfranchisement of registered voters who are senior citizens, PWDs, and required to work during election day, such as lawyers and teachers.</p> <p>Director Teopisto Elnas Jr. of the COMELEC’s Election and Barangay Affairs Department informed the Committee that, of the 54 million registered voters as of August 2016, 7.2 million are senior citizens and a total of 323,210 are PWDs.</p> <p>COMELEC Chair Andres Bautista opined that the proposed amendments to RA 10366 would entail additional logistics and funding support. He reiterated his previous recommendation to establish polling places in malls or other commercial establishments exclusively for PWDs and senior citizens on election day which are more convenient and accessible to them. He added that it is a cheaper alternative to holding a separate election for these sectors.</p> <p>The COMELEC and other resource persons present were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 743	Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Providing for qualified early voting for senior citizens, PWDs, and workers required to work on election day	
	HBs 1371, 1372, 1373, 2486 & 2487	Reps. Tan (A.) and Suansing (E.)	Providing for local absentee voting for lawyers, PWDs and senior citizens	
	HB 4539	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Providing for early voting for the national and local elections	
Women and Gender Equality	HBs 219, 374, 375, 1159, 2386, 3263 & 3951	Reps. Villarica, Brosas, Acosta-Alba, Abad, Deputy Speaker Cayetano, and Rep. Aglipay-Villar	Ensuring the fundamental equality of men and women under the laws on marriage and family relations, amending for the purpose Executive Order 209 or the Family Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee, chaired by DIWA Party-List Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, directed the Secretariat to draft the substitute bill, which will be presented to the Committee in its next meeting for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>All the authors and the resource persons present were in agreement that the existing Family Code contains provisions that are discriminatory against women, archaic, and fail to recognize the equality between the husband and wife in the management of the family.</p>

Continuation... Women and Gender Equality				<p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) lawyer Krissi Shaffina Twyla Rubin said that the proposed law should address the constraints encountered by most women in filing court cases against their husband and in sustaining such legal actions.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the matter.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Subcommittee on Prosecutorial Reforms (Justice)	HB 803	Rep. Batocabe	Defining and penalizing the crime of bullying of the marginalized, oppressed and powerless	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 803.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Harry Roque Jr. (Party-List, KABAYAN).</p> <p>Rep. Roque recommended that Sec. 4 (Acts of the Marginalized, Oppressed, and Powerless, or MOP-bullying) of the bill be reworded to ensure that it will not impinge upon the freedom of expression as provided for in the Constitution.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), author of HB 803, manifested that he is open to suggestions that will improve the bill further.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Officer-in-Charge for Sectoral, Thematic and Special Concerns Florante Enciso and Rainbow Rights Project acting president Jazz Tamayo expressed their support for the bill.</p>
	HBs 464, 908, 1460, 2899, 4429 & 4549	Rep. Tugna, Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Roque (H.), Zarate, Abayon, and Rodriguez (M.)	Strengthening the witness protection, security, and benefit program, amending for the purpose RA 6981, otherwise known as the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act and providing funds therefor	The Subcommittee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), to harmonize and consolidate the six bills.
	HBs 47, 223, 465, 498, 776, 933, 1762, 1939, 1997, 2008, 2303, 2440, 2814 & 3293	Reps. Fortun, Roque (H.), Tugna, Nograles (K.A.), Aglipay-Villar, Abaya, Zarate, Villar, Tan (A.), Acop, Castelo, Arenas, Suansing (E.), and Escudero	Providing for the protection, security and benefits of the whistleblowers, appropriating funds therefor	The Subcommittee agreed to create a TWG, to be chaired by Rep. Sherwin Tugna (Party-List, CIBAC), to harmonize and consolidate the 14 bills.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	HB 3809	Rep. Barbers	Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose certain sections of RA 9165	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (2 nd District, Surigao del Norte), will deliberate further on HBs 1257 and 3809.
	HB 1257	Rep. Biazon	Amending certain provisions of RA 9165, by adding certain chemicals and drugs to the list of controlled precursors and dangerous drugs, respectively; penalizing the possession of controlled precursors and essential chemicals as well as laboratory equipment for the illicit manufacture of the said illegal substances; and mandating local government units (LGUs) to undertake local drug and chemical prevention and control programs	<p>The members of the TWG agreed to adopt HB 3809 as their working draft.</p> <p>Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" Teves Jr. (3rd District, Negros Oriental) said that Section 4 of RA 9165 might be prejudicial to legal importers of chemicals like Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine, a precursor being used by pharmaceutical companies as a component of medicines for colds.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers requested the representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to come up with suggestions on how to best amend Section 4 in such a way that legal importers of certain precursors are protected, but at the same time it serves as a deterrent to unscrupulous people who acquire these controlled precursors for the manufacture of shabu and cocaine.</p> <p>PDEA Compliance Service Director Helen Reyes said that the Agency has installed stringent safeguard mechanisms, including requiring all importers of precursors to apply for permits from the PDEA, to prevent the entry of illegal substances in the Philippines.</p> <p>However, Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) expressed doubt on the effectiveness of the supposed stringent measures being undertaken by the PDEA, considering the widespread proliferation of shabu in the country.</p> <p>Reyes explained that the proliferation of illegal drugs can be attributed to the lack of security in the country's coastlines. She stressed the need to enhance security in these areas to prevent smuggling of precursors into the country.</p> <p>The PDEA was requested to submit a position paper on the proposed law.</p>
Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 78, 457, 574, 1356, 4360 & 4525	Reps. Aglipay-Villar, Manalo, Angara-Castillo, Nograles (K. A.), Villarin, and Mendoza	Instituting the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary, Atty. Christopher Lomibao, agreed to incorporate the proposed amendments to the draft substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>

<p>Continuation... Overseas Workers Affairs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Among the amendments agreed upon are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fees or other charges shall be imposed on cadets, interns, apprentices, and on-the-job trainees or others in similar status in connection with their right to educational advancement and training (Sec. 7); • The terms and conditions of employment and company policies affecting seafarers shall be made known to the seafarers as part of their “right to relevant information” (Sec. 8); • Services rendered by trainees, probationary crew members, and others in similar work status shall be paid the full minimum wage, while service rendered by cadets, on-the-job-trainees, apprentices and others in similar status shall be compensated in the form of a stipend or allowance equivalent to 50% of the minimum wage of a regular seafarer (Sec. 22); • The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in coordination with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), shall undertake the emergency repatriation of seafarers, while the POEA shall require the manning agencies to effect the repatriation of the seafarers within 48 hours or face suspension (Sec. 26); and • Material assistance and support from the ship owner shall be provided to seafarers in case of sickness, injury or death occurring in the course of their employment, without prejudice to any legal remedy that a seafarer may seek (Sec.36). <p>Lomibao requested the stakeholders present to submit their proposed amendments to the penal provisions of the substitute bill (Sections 48 and 49).</p>
<p>Revision of Laws (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 878, 972, 3398, 3478, 3498 & 4112</p>	<p>Reps. Lopez (B.), Fortun, Brosas, Escudero, Vargas, and Lazatin</p>	<p>Amending Republic Act 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000, providing for additional benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children, appropriating fund therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Lawrence “Law” Fortun (1st District, Agusan del Norte), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill to the six measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>The members of the TWG discussed Sections 1 and 2 of the draft substitute bill, which seek to amend the following provisions of RA 8972:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Policy (Section 2); • Definition of Terms (Section 3); • Criteria for Support (Section 4); and • Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services (Section 5).

<p>Continuation... Revision of Laws (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>GABRIELA Party-List Rep. Arlene Brosas, author of HB 3398, suggested the inclusion of pregnant women who will have the sole responsibility of raising their child, in the definition of “solo parents.”</p> <p>Gomel Gabuan, chief of the Administrative Division of the Department of Health (DOH), supported the suggestion of Rep. Brosas and conveyed the DOH’s intention to submit its position paper on the matter.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) suggested that the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) should take part in the development of a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children, as stated in Section 2 of RA 8972.</p> <p>When asked about the number of solo parents in the country, OIC-Assistant Director Rosalie Dagulo of the Protective Services Bureau of the DSWD, answered that in 2013, the DSWD has issued at least 29,200 solo parent identification cards (IDs) nationwide, excluding five regions.</p> <p>However, she stressed that not all solo parents register with the DSWD or apply for an ID card, adding that in a 2007 census conducted by the National Statistics Office (now Philippine Statistics Authority), there were already 14 million unregistered solo parents in the country.</p>
<p>Veterans Affairs and Welfare (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 1240</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo</p>	<p>Giving juridical personality to the present Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC)</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), will deliberate further on HB 1240 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Some of the amendments proposed during the meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The composition of VMMC’s Board of Trustees should be reduced to seven to nine members, majority of whom should come from the medical profession; and • The bill should include a section providing VMMC annual appropriations and other financial benefits and allowing it to use government-owned real properties. <p>Rep. Villanueva asked whether the issues concerning the land ownership of VMMC have already been resolved. Quezon City Deputy Register of Deeds Carlo Alcantara said that the VMMC’s original title to the land it is presently occupying was one of the documents burned when a fire gutted the Quezon City Hall in 1988.</p> <p>Higino Equipaje, department manager of the</p>

