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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 3540, 3700, 3985, 4724 & 4741	Deputy Speaker Garin, Reps. Antonio, Aglipay-Villar, Villafuerte, and Tupas	Promoting the scientific propagation, processing, utilization and development of Philippine native animals, hereby creating the Philippine Native Animal Development Center	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 3540, 3700, 3985, 4724 and 4741 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be submitted to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p>
	HB 3355	Deputy Speaker Garin	Amending RA 1556, otherwise known as the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act of 1956	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on HB 3355 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Garin noted the absence of representatives from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and other agencies which will play a vital role in the implementation of the proposed law. They will again be invited in the next TWG meeting to solicit their comments and recommendations on the bill.</p> <p>Simeona Regidor, officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) National Fisheries Laboratory Division, proposed that RA 10611 or the "Food Safety Act of 2013" be revisited in conjunction with the review of HB 3355.</p> <p>United Broiler Raisers Association President Elias Jose Inciong expressed support for the bill. He urged the TWG to strengthen Section 7 of the bill which proposes the creation of the Animal Feed Control Advisory Committee to ensure its implementation.</p>
Special Committee on Food Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 247, 3419, 3937 & 767	Reps. Bordado, Banal, Bag-ao, and Aglipay-Villar	Creating a system of food distribution to address the nutritional needs of the people, providing for its procurement process and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on Chapter II (Procurement) of the bill which provides, among others, that the government should ensure that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the National Feeding Program will be procured from small-scale producers.</p> <p>Melissa Santiago-Yan, deputy executive director of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), Department of Budget</p>

Continuation... Special Committee on Food Security (Technical Working Group)				<p>and Management (DBM), suggested that existing laws, rules, and regulations on negotiated procurement be adopted under the proposed law. She also suggested that the registration of small-scale producers should not be made a pre-qualification requirement to encourage their increased participation in the proposed National Feeding Program.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture (DA) Consultant Candido Damo suggested that small-scale producers should organize themselves into groups so that the government does not have to deal with them individually. He also said that at least 50% of the total food supplies required for the feeding program should be procured from small-scale producers.</p> <p>On possible sources of funds needed to implement the proposed law, DBM Bureau Director Cristina Clasara informed the TWG that the Department of Education (DepEd) has a budget of P3.9 billion for its school-based feeding program, while the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has P4.4 billion for its supplementary feeding program.</p> <p>The DA, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Dairy Authority (NDA), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Rice Watch and Action Network, and the <i>Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka</i> (PAKISAMA) expressed their support for the bill.</p>
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1946 & 3052	Reps. Santos- Recto and Yap (V.)	Expanding the coverage and strengthening the powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose RA 7925 otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Act of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Ranier Alvarado, will deliberate further on HBs 1946, 2871, 3052 and 3876 in its next meeting.</p> <p>To facilitate the review of the proposed law, the TWG agreed to use the version submitted by the Internet Society - Philippines Chapter (ISOC-PH) as its working draft.</p> <p>When asked about the position of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on the bills, DICT Planning Officer Donna Estrelles said that the agency's position paper is still awaiting the signature of DICT Secretary Rodolfo Salalima.</p> <p>The resource persons were given two weeks to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
	HB 2871	Rep. Yap (V.)	Promoting open access in data transmission, providing additional powers to the NTC	
	HB 3876	Rep. Zarate	Expanding the powers of the NTC, classifying short messaging service (SMS) and internet services as utilities imbued with public interest and providing penalties for violations thereof, amending RA 7925	

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Editorial Unit, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9326118; 9315001 local 7122.

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