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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)	HB 588	Rep. Bataoil	Strengthening the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and providing supplemental duties thereof, amending for the purpose Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Virgilio San Diego, will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Resource persons present were asked to state their respective positions pertinent to the 14 bills.</p>
	HB 860 & 2568	Reps. Yap (V.) and Rodriguez (M.)	Adopting the higher prescribed penalty, including death, of the national law of an alien found guilty of trafficking dangerous drugs and other similar substances, amending for the purpose RA 9165	DDB Undersecretary Benjamin Reyes expressed his support for HBs 860 and 2568, which prescribe that the higher penalty of the national law of an alien found guilty of trafficking dangerous drugs and other similar substances be adopted as penalty to the foreign offender.
	HBs 1257 & 3809	Reps. Biazon and Barbers	Strengthening and intensifying the campaign against illegal drug trafficking, amending for this purpose certain sections of RA 9165	National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Task Force Illegal Drugs head Jonathan Galicia likewise expressed his support for the two bills, but suggested that similar penalties should also apply to Filipino nationals who have violated the law. According to Galicia, this will discourage Filipinos from allowing themselves to be used by foreign syndicates in illegal drug activities.
	HB 1413	Rep. Castelo	Amending Sections 23 and 24 of RA 9165 (by restoring the plea bargaining provision and the Probation Law)	With regard to the bills on drug testing, PDEA lawyer Aljuhari Mangelen suggested that the DDB be given the central role in promulgating rules and regulations regarding drug testing.
	HB 3191	Rep. Unabia	Requiring an annual mandatory drug testing for all government officials and employees, amending for the purpose RA 9165	Mangelen also expressed PDEA's objection to HB 1413 which seeks to restore the plea bargaining provision and the Probation Law in relation to offenses under RA 9165. He said that doing so defeats the administration's anti-illegal drugs campaign.
	HB 3403	Rep. Batocabe	Providing for legal procedure in the disposition and rehabilitation of drug dependents and/or drug pushers or dealers who voluntarily surrender, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended	The DDB and NBI, on the other hand, support HB 1413, noting that there was a Supreme Court decision which declared Section 23 of RA 9165 as unconstitutional, thereby allowing a plea bargaining agreement in some drug cases, especially those involving "small time" drug offenders. Galicia added that a lot of people are languishing in jail over very small amounts of illegal drugs due to this prohibition.
	HB 3609	Rep. De Venecia	Amending the composition of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) to further strengthen the anti-drug campaign of the government, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended	
	HB 3976	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Requiring drug tests for professional and non-professional athletes, amending for the purpose Section 36 of RA 9165	
	HB 4659	Rep. Velarde	Expanding the coverage of authorized drug testing, amending for the purpose Section 36, Article III of RA 9165	

HB 4671	Reps. Garcia (J.)	Further expediting the disposition of judicial cases involving violations of RA 9165, enhancing its efficacy against dangerous drugs, and amending for the purpose Sections 90 and 92 thereof	<p>Commenting on HB 4728, the DDB, NBI and PDEA representatives were all in agreement that the process of authenticating photographs of dangerous drugs and related items confiscated or seized will be too burdensome for the police and presenting these photographs as evidence, instead of the actual items confiscated or seized, might result to technicalities that will be detrimental to the successful prosecution of drug cases.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Galicia requested that the NBI be given more than 72 hours to destroy seized illegal drugs taking into consideration the lengthy judicial process before the disposition of such substances. When asked how much time the NBI will need, Galicia said that the NBI will make some consultations first before giving a specific time frame.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
HB 4728	Rep. Batocabe	Providing for the disposition of confiscated, seized, and/or surrendered dangerous drugs, plant sources of dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, instruments/paraphernalia amending for the purpose RA 9165 as amended by RA 10640	
HB 6984	Rep. Bernos	Institutionalizing the automatic rehabilitation of arrested/apprehended persons found to be drug dependent, amending for the purpose RA 9165	