

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 31
September 25, 2017

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Good Government and Public Accountability	HR 882	Majority Leader Fariñas	Inquiry into the use by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte of its shares from the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes or the Special Support Fund under RA 7171 for a purpose other than those provided for by the said law, and into its highly irregular purchase of motor vehicles made through cash advances without the benefit of public biddings for the total amount of P66.45 million	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), will continue its inquiry relative to HR 882 in its next meeting.</p> <p>On motion of Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc (4th District, Pampanga), the Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a timeline of the appropriation ordinances issued by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) relative to the alleged irregular purchases of motor vehicles and other transactions undertaken by the PGIN and the fund releases of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) pursuant to RA 7171.</p> <p>This timeline, according to Rep. Bondoc, will clarify certain matters and facilitate the discussion of issues during the subsequent hearings of the Committee.</p>
	HR 1126	Rep. Casilao	Inquiry into the utilization of the tobacco excise tax and determination of the tangible benefits acquired by tobacco farmers of Ilocos Norte	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1126 in its next meeting.</p> <p>ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" Casilao, author of HR 1126, manifested that there has not been any comment from the Commission on Audit (COA) and there had been no verifiable data or record relative to the utilization by the PGIN of its share from the proceeds of the tobacco excise tax for the past ten years or since 2006, the amount of which has already reached P1.5 billion.</p> <p>The members of the <i>Alyansa Dagiti Mannalon ti Ilocos Norte</i> or AMIN (Peasant Alliance in Ilocos Norte), claimed that they have not in anyway been benefitted by RA 7171 inspite of their requests for support from the PGIN.</p> <p>Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos belied the statement of the farmers' group asserting that the PGIN has provided support to these farmers through the construction of farm-to-market roads; provision of farm inputs such as fertilizers; grant of summer employment to their children; and educational loans or grants. Marcos also denied receiving requests for support from the farmers' group but promised to look into the matter immediately.</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>				<p>DBM Region 1 Director Nenita Failon clarified that it was only in 2015 that the PGIN was granted funds from the Special Support Fund in lump sum amount based on the list of projects it submitted to the DBM.</p> <p>The Committee requested the submission of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the COA - copy of its financial audit reports covering the period 2010 to 2016 on the utilization of the PGIN of its share in the tobacco excise tax; • From the PGIN – copy of its annual investment program (AIP) for 2010, and from 2013 to 2016; and • From the DBM - detailed releases of funds in favor of PGIN pursuant to RA 7171. <p>The Committee agreed to issue “show cause” orders against the following personnel to explain their non-attendance during the meeting despite the invitation extended and to issue corresponding subpoena to compel their attendance in the next Committee meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atty. Erme Labayog, Ilocos Norte provincial assessor and chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC); • Gilbert Suribas, vice-president for operations of Granstar Motors and Industrial Corporation; • Mark Chua, who transacted with Granstar Motors for the purchase of the vehicles; and • Irene Mendoza, staff of Mark Chua. <p>The National Tobacco Administration (NTA) will also be invited in the next Committee meeting.</p>
	<p><i>Motu proprio inquiry</i></p>		<p>Inquiry into the transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, particularly on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of portrait bust sculpture and services for the development of Paoay Museum on July 17, 2012; • Materials and installation of precast concrete for Paseo de Paoay on July 18, 2012; • Purchase of medicines and Libspray 211 for distribution to the different municipalities on October 24, 2012; • Purchase of Panlaban 5EC for distribution to the different municipalities on November 23, 2012; and • Purchase of medicines for distribution to the different municipalities on December 11, 2012 	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the alleged irregular transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte undertaken in 2012.</p> <p>Heeding the request of Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), Marcos submitted to the Committee a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the PGIN and the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution pertaining to the Paseo de Paoay Project.</p>

Health	Substitute Bill to HB 180	Rep. Albano	Providing compassionate and right of access to medical cannabis and expanding research into its medicinal properties	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 180 subject to amendment.
	HB 4161	Rep. Espina	Mandating six months medical service in local health facilities for post-graduate physicians and new medical specialists	The Committee approved HB 4161.
	HB 2553	Rep Roque (R.)	Establishing the Teodoro N. Pepito Memorial Hospital in the City of Valencia, 4th District of the Province of Bukidnon and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2553.
	HBs 4624, 5324 & 5637	Reps. Aumentado, Nograles (K.A.), and Fernando	Increasing the bed capacity of hospitals in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 4624, 5324 and 5637.
	HR 719	Rep. Lanete	Urging the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to include psoriasis in the list of diseases and ailments covered by its healthcare program, with the end in view of making psoriasis treatment available especially to the marginalized and reducing cases of psoriasis in the Philippines	The Committee adopted HR 719.
	HBs 2475, 3491 & 3857	Reps. Zarate, Atienza, and Tambunting	Prohibiting the privatization and corporatization of public hospitals, public health facilities and public health services	The Committee approved the consolidation of HBs 2475, 3491 and 3857.
	HB 4875	Rep. Dalipe	Upgrading the Labuan Public Hospital into a secondary level hospital and increasing the bed capacity for general care services to 100 bed capacity, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the consolidation of HBs 4875 and 4945.
	HB 4945	Rep. Lobregat	Amending Batas Pambansa Blg. 517, by converting the Labuan Public Hospital in Zamboanga City into a Level II general hospital to be known as the Labuan General Hospital and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 268, 716, 897, 1578, 1851, 1964, 2579, 2798, 3089, 3365, 3441, 3497, 3500, 4707, 5378, 5387, 5763, 6153, 6210, 6280 & 6299, HR 786 and Privilege Speech No. 195	Reps. Roman, Vargas, Tan (A.), Suansing (E.), Rodriguez (M.), Aragonos, Castelo, Escudero, Alejano, Bolilia, Gatchalian, Nograles (K.A.), Roa-Puno, Herrera-Dy, and Lanete	Establishing cancer treatment facilities; providing health insurance coverage and government support to cancer patients; institutionalizing cancer prevention and control program; raising public awareness regarding cancer; and similar subject matters	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the 23 measures. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Sandra Young Eriguel M.D. (2nd District, La Union).
	HB 5676	Rep. Lanete	Establishing a national mental health policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services, promoting and protecting	The Committee agreed to deliberate on HB 5676, authored by Rep. Scott Davies Lanete M.D. (3 rd District, Masbate), together with several other measures relative to mental

Continuation... Health			persons utilizing psychiatric, neurologic and psychological health services, appropriating funds therefor	health.
	HB 5154	Rep. Tambunting	Promulgating a comprehensive policy in addressing the needs of persons afflicted by rare disorders	The Committee agreed to table HBs 5154 and 5704, authored by Reps. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City) and Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2 nd District, Quezon City), respectively.
	HB 5704	Rep. Castelo	Granting free PhilHealth coverage to day care workers	Rep. Mariño explained that the intentions of the two bills are already covered by RA 10747 or the Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines and RA 10606 or the National Health Insurance Act of 2013, as amended.
Health jt. with Trade and Industry	HR 973	Rep. Bravo	Urging the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt harm reduction measures particularly the use of electronic cigarettes as an alternative for smokers as part of its national tobacco control strategy	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), Vice Chair of the Committee on Health, and Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, adopted HR 973.
	HBs 884, 885, 917, 925, 4129, 4713 & 5204	Reps. Tan (A.), Roque (H.), Abaya, Castelo, Fortun, and Biazon	Amending RA 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Reps. Garcia and Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin).</p> <p>Atty. Mel John Versoza, deputy administrator of the National Tobacco Administration (NTA), expressed support for the bills. Versoza, however, suggested that the NTA be retained as a member of the Inter-Agency Committee – Tobacco (IAC-Tobacco) which is mandated to implement the provisions of RA 9211.</p> <p>Some of the bills propose that NTA and a representative from the tobacco industry be removed as members of the IAC-Tobacco because of conflict of interests.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Eric Singson (2nd District, Ilocos Sur) also supports the retention of the NTA in the IAC - Tobacco. He likewise urged the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to study and ascertain the contention that the government stands to lose about P100 billion in revenues from excise tax on cigarettes once this bill is passed into law.</p> <p>Majority of the Members of the Committee and the resource persons present during the meeting favor the removal of the NTA from the membership of the IAC-Tobacco.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills for the consideration of the TWG.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bill to HBs 6286, 898,	Reps. Hofer, Tan (A.), Santos-Recto;	Establishing a medical scholarship and service program for qualified students and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), approved the substitute bill subject to style and

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	2166, 2951, 3472, 3586, 5990, 6213, 4025 & 6361	Herrera-Dy, Macapagal- Arroyo, Vargas, Nieto, Belaro, and Olivarez		<p>amendment.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be transmitted to the Committee on Appropriations for its comments on the bills' funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer mentioned that the substitute bill retained the provision on the eight-year return service requirement, or two years for every scholarship year availed of by the scholar, to be complied with within 10 years upon graduation.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Hofer said that based on the Committee's consultation with the Legislative Counseling Service of the House of Representatives, it is legally untenable to compel private schools to put up a counterpart fund to shoulder the balance of the scholarship grant that will be provided by the government to scholars enrolled in private schools.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon), author of HB 898, and ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France Castro disagreed with the bill's penal provision under Section 9 that revokes the medical license of the scholar for refusal or failure to render return service requirement, arguing that the penalty is too harsh.</p> <p>Dr. Heracleo Lagrada, dean of Our Lady of Fatima University (OFLU) Graduate School, and Dr. Jose Nemesio Granada, dean of the West Visayas State University (WVSU) College of Medicine, agreed with Reps. Tan and Castro. They recommended that instead of revoking the license, the errant scholar may be required to pay double the amount of the scholarship grant or impose a high interest rate.</p>
	HBs 6137 & 6147	Reps. Ramirez- Sato and Cortuna	Establishing the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) -Sablayan campus in Occidental Mindoro to be known as PUP-Sablayan Campus, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the consolidation of HBs 6137 and 6147 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato, author of HB 6137, said that the passage of the proposed law will lessen the expenditures of the local government of Sablayan since the expenses for the operation of the university will now be charged against the national budget.</p> <p>A TEACHER Party-List Rep. Julieta Cortuna, author of HB 6147, said that providing quality education to students will be better achieved with having two tertiary institutions in the province.</p> <p>PUP President Dr. Emmanuel de Guzman recommended that the bill should reflect the status of PUP as a national government-funded school which should be referred to as a branch and not as a campus, which refers to</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>LGU-funded schools.</p> <p>Commissioner Ronald Adamat of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), while expressing support for the bills, reminded the PUP officials to comply with the guidelines and requirements set by the CHED.</p>
Trade and Industry	Substitute Bill to HBs 2171, 5031, 5093, 5383, 5634, 5809 & 6401	Reps. Santos- Recto, Biron, Yap (A.), Castelo, Tambunting, Zubiri, and Villafuerte	Establishing a national policy on ease of doing business, creating for the purpose the Ease of Doing Business Commission	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ferjenel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), approved the Substitute Bill to the seven measures.</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 6401, said that the proposed law introduces reforms in business permitting and licensing to ensure an expeditious processing and issuance of such permits and licenses by government agencies.</p> <p>AKO BICOL Party-List Rep. Rodel Batocabe suggested that some agencies be allowed to apply for exemption from the required 30-day maximum processing time saying that certain transactions may require a longer time to process.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go clarified that the 30-day processing time limit will be reckoned from the time the applicant has submitted all the requirements.</p> <p>Rep. Villafuerte maintained that allowing exemptions would defeat the purpose of the bill which is to fast-track the release of business permits and licenses.</p> <p>Rep. Biron said that amendments to the proposed law may still be raised during its deliberations in the plenary.</p>
	HBs 528, 877, 1324, 2917 & 5970	Reps. Batocabe, Sarmiento (E. M.), Pimentel, Escudero, and Roque (H.)	Amending Batas Pambansa Blg. 68 or the Corporation Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the bills.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers not later than ten working days.</p>
	HBs 3252 & 6332	Reps. Biron and Tan (A.)	Establishing the Drug Price Regulatory Board to regulate the prices of drugs and medicines in the Philippines, amending for the purpose RA 9502, otherwise known as the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to harmonize the bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo.</p>
Welfare of Children	Substitute Bill to HBs 440, 748, 848, 953, 982, 1345, 1971, 2550, 3407, 3428, 3530, 3826, 3968, 4552, 4738 & 5722	Deputy Speaker Quimbo, Rep. Aglipay-Villar, Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Ocampo, Fortun, Acop, Suansing (E.) Romualdez, Aragones, Cortuna,	Instituting the Magna Carta of Day Care Workers and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 16 measures, as revised.

Continuation... Welfare of Children		Unabia, Revilla, Herrera-Dy, Rodriguez (M.), Brosas, and Castelo		
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2235 & 3581	Reps. Revilla and Macapagal- Arroyo	Prohibiting unattended children in motor vehicles	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 352 & 396	Reps. Aglipay- Villar and Belmonte (J.C.)	Granting tax deductions to parents and legal guardians of children with special needs	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 352 and 396 subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HB 894	Rep. Tan (A.)	Prohibiting the roaming, loitering or sleeping of unchaperoned children during unsafe hours outside their abode, prescribing penalties for their parents or guardians and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 894.
	HBs 2442, 4813 & 5836	Reps. Montoro, Herrera-Dy and Roa-Puno	Establishing rehabilitation centers for children and youth with disabilities	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the three bills. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Edgar Sarmiento (1 st District, Samar).

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Subcommittee II (Constitutional Amendments)	Review of certain provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in connection with the proposed shift to a federal form of government	<p>The Subcommittee II, chaired by Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" Castro (2nd District, Capiz), listened to the views of the resource persons on the proposed shift to a federal form of government.</p> <p>Subcommittee II is tasked to study and come up with possible amendments to the following articles of the Constitution: Bill of Rights (Article III); Citizenship (Article IV); Suffrage (Article V); Judicial Department (Article VIII); Constitutional Commissions (Article IX); and Amendments or Revisions (Article XVII). It is also tasked to review a proposed article on Bill of Duties.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Castro informed the body that the Subcommittee is interested in hearing everyone's opinion including those who are not in support of the proposed shift to a federal form of government.</p> <p>Former Supreme Court Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza, who is an acknowledged authority in Constitutional Law, expressed his opposition to the move towards federalism. According to Mendoza, existing federal governments were formed to unite previously independent states, not mere provinces or political regions. In contrast, the Philippines attempts to federalize what is already a united independent country.</p> <p>Mendoza asked the House Members present and those advocating federalism to seriously ponder on whether the country really needs to shift to a federal form of government or whether the country's problems can be addressed by just pursuing full decentralization, or the transfer of authority from central to local governments, and strengthening the local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur) agreed with the opinion of Mendoza, but said that if the country intends to push through with federalism, he prefers that the 81</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee (Constitutional Amendments)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">II</p>		<p>existing provinces be converted into federal states instead of dividing the country into 17 regions. Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera (Party-List, MATA) expressed doubts on the ability of poor provinces to become self-sufficient in the event that they will be converted into federal states.</p> <p>PDP-Laban Federalism Institute Executive Director Jonathan Malaya said that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for federalism. He explained that aside from the classic models of federalism adopted by the United States and Canada, another possible alternative is the “holding together” model used by South Africa and Belgium. (The Institute submitted to the Committee a draft Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines.)</p> <p>The Institute is still consulting with LGUs and other stakeholders to help refine its proposal. But Malaya said that some of its recommended amendments to the Constitution include the abolition of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC); the creation of a regional court of appeals; and the inclusion of provisions that will develop stronger and more cohesive political parties.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Villafuerte and Justice Mendoza said that the Institute should take into consideration the huge cost that the proposed shift to federalism will entail. Rep. Villafuerte opined that funding the functions devolved to LGUs by virtue of RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 might be a more viable alternative to federalism.</p> <p>Malaya said that the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) is currently conducting a study to determine the cost that will be needed to establish and support a federal form of government, which he promised to submit as soon as it becomes available.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA) and Rep. Velasco-Catera requested that party-lists be included as participants in the stakeholder consultations being done by the PDP-Laban Federalism Institute.</p> <p>Representatives from the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) expressed their support for the proposed shift to a federal form of government.</p>
---	--	--

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 235 & 3279	Reps. Marcoleta and Ocampo	Requiring mandatory environment insurance coverage (MEIC) for environmentally-critical projects	<p>The technical working group (TWG) presided by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>The discussion focused on the bill’s Section 1 (Mandatory Environment Insurance Coverage) which provides that all owners and operators of environmentally-critical projects shall be required to secure an MEIC to compensate for damages to health and property, environmental rehabilitation, remediation, and clean-up costs and expenses as a result of environmental impairment arising from their operations.</p> <p>Engr. Marivic Yao from the Environmental</p>

Continuation... Ecology (Technical Working Group)				<p>Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that the DENR already has an existing policy that requires project proponents, whose projects have been determined by the DENR to pose significant risks to public health or the environment, to put up an Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF).</p> <p>The EGF shall be readily accessible and disbursable for the immediate clean-up or rehabilitation of affected areas as a direct consequence of a project's construction, operation or abandonment.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing and Yao suggested that the valuation of EGF's coverage for a project should be based on the level of risks it would cause on people and the environment rather than on the project proponent's capital. Their comment was in reaction to the statement of Fernando Baterna, president of the Green Environment Management and Insurance Agency (GEMIA), who said that his agency bases its EGF valuation on the company's or project proponent's capital.</p> <p>Representatives from government offices like the Insurance Commission (IC) and Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and from the business sector and non-government organizations (NGOs) such as the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc. (FPI), Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI), and Mother Earth Foundation, gave their respective views on the basis for determining the value of the EGF that should be set aside for each environmentally-critical project.</p> <p>Also during the meeting, the TWG agreed to amend the title of the draft substitute bill by changing the term "environmentally-critical business" to "environmentally-critical projects." It likewise agreed to include a section on "definition of terms."</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers.</p>
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 456 & 1286	Reps. Manalo and Baguilat	Providing for a Maritime Code for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and its Protocol of 1988; the International Convention for the Prevention and Pollution from Ships, 1973, its Protocol of 1978 and its Protocol of 1997; the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972; the International Convention on Load Lines 1966 and its Protocol of 1988, as amended in 2003; and the International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by its Vice Chair ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito Manalo, agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HBs 456 and 1286.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their comments and recommendations for the TWG's consideration in the drafting of the substitute bill.</p> <p>Manifesting their support for the bills were representatives from the government side, namely, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and the</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); and from the seafarers' and shipping associations and the academe, such as the Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMO SUP), Filipino Shipowners' Association (FSA), Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (PISA), and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).</p> <p>DFA Executive Director for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Lourdes Montero, while expressing support for the bills, recommended to modify Section 5 that empowers the MARINA to adopt regulations to conform to amendments to international maritime conventions without need of further legislative or executive authorization. Montero explained that this runs counter to the provision in the Constitution which requires the concurrence of the Senate in order for a treaty or an international agreement to be valid and effective.</p> <p>Office for Transportation Security's (OTS) Maritime Transportation Security Division OIC-Director Gerard Aquino suggested that the mandate of the OTS to ensure the security of the transportation systems in the country be defined in the bill.</p> <p>Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Deputy Chief for Operations Captain Allan Victor Dela Vega objected to the bills' intent of unifying all maritime administration and regulatory functions under MARINA. Dela Vega asserted that MARINA may have the mandate of formulating policies governing the maritime sector, but the mandate of maritime law enforcement should remain with the PCG.</p> <p>University of the Philippines (UP) Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea (IMLOS) Professor Jay Batongbacal proposed the delineation of the functions of the different agencies involved in implementing and enforcing international maritime conventions.</p>
---	--	--	--	--