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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 6016 & SB 1466	Rep. Castelo and Sen. Zubiri	Regulating the issuance, use and redemption of gift checks	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Ferjanel Biron, M.D. (4th District, Iloilo), Chair of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, and Senator Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Chair of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, approved the reconciled version of HB 6016 and SB 1466 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House: Reps. Xavier Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin), Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), and Arlene Arcillas (1st District, Laguna); On the part of the Senate: Senators Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian and Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 217, 74, 320, 741, 1454, 1667, 1709, 1969, 2218, 2236, 2704, 2954, 3391, 3646, 3824, 4034, 4625, 4488 & 5698	Deputy Speaker Villarica, Reps. Vargas, Primicias-Agabas, Aglipay-Villar, Belaro, Revilla, Biazon, Suansing (E.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Castelo, Acharon, Antonino, Deputy Speaker Andaya, Reps. Olivarez, and Gatchalian	Instituting inclusive education, establishing inclusive education learning resource centers for children and youth with special needs (CYSNs) in all public schools divisions, providing for standards and guidelines, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ramon "Red" Durano VI (5th District, Cebu), approved the substitute bill subject to style.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano (2nd District, Taguig City-Pateros) suggested that a provision offering other ways of learning apart from the classroom setting should also be included in the bill, explaining that not all children and youth with special needs can cope or thrive in such an environment.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte) said that the Department of Education (DepEd) should focus on the quality of inclusive education and not just the establishment of centers for this purpose. He pointed out the need to study the cases and to determine the number of children with special needs, including children belonging to cultural minorities, throughout the country to know the extent of service that should be provided to this sector.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				Under the bill, "inclusive education" refers to a process of addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all learners by increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities, and reducing exclusion within and from education.
	HBs 2099, 2414, 2420, 2640, 4504 & 5561	Reps. Calixto-Rubiano, Dimaporo (A), Gatchalian, Oaminal, and Cuaresma	Establishing national high schools in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the six bills.
	HBs 1329, 4907 & 4908	Reps. Gatchalian and Garin (O.)	Separating national high schools in the City of Valenzuela and in the Province of Iloilo, converting them into independent national high schools and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills.
	HB 2733	Rep. Gonzales (A.D.)	Providing for the establishment of alternative learning system (ALS) community learning centers for every city and municipality and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the seven bills.
	HB 3706	Rep. Romualdez	Institutionalizing ALS for indigent adults, out-of-school youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and special needs, and senior citizens, providing funds therefor	The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), author of HB 2733. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) supports the passage of the proposed law as it will allow out-of-school youths, indigent adults and other qualified beneficiaries access to education that will prepare them to secure better jobs.
	HB 4029	Rep. Belaro	Allowing <i>kasambahays</i> to enjoy distance learning and home-based study program	Meanwhile, the DepEd requested for ample time to study the bills before coming up with its official position.
	HB 4307	Rep. Robes	Establishing an alternative education facility for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBTs) to be known as LGBT Specialist School situated in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and appropriating funds therefor	In response to the query of Rep. Gabriel Bordado (3rd District, Camarines Sur), DepEd Bureau of Learning Delivery head Marilette Almayda clarified that the establishment of the ALS is intended to provide those in the marginalized sector a chance to acquire education through alternative learning outside of the formal education system.
	HBs 3292, 4386 & 6039	Reps. Villarín, Herrera-Dy, and Villafuerte	Institutionalizing the "Abot-Alam Program" of the Department of Education (DepEd)	The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills for the consideration of the TWG.
	HBs 2070 & 2914	Reps. Olivarez and Tan (A.)	Establishing a Bureau of Private Schools to administer, supervise, and regulate private schools offering primary and secondary education in the country, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate HBs 2070 and 2914. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan M.D. (4th District, Quezon). Rep. Bordado, who sponsored HB 2070 on behalf of the author Rep. Eric Olivarez (1 st District, Parañaque City), said that the proposed Bureau of Private Schools, under the control and supervision of DepEd, shall be responsible for supervising and regulating all private schools offering elementary and secondary education. With a body focusing solely on the concerns of private schools, the needed response will be fast-tracked.

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<p>Federation of Associations of Private Schools and Administrators (FAPSA) President Eleazardo Casilag expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the DepEd and the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) requested that they be given ample time to study the legislative measures.</p> <p>All the resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills for the consideration of the TWG.</p>
Games and Amusements	HR 598	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the proliferation of "online <i>sabong</i> "	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2nd District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 598 in another meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Tambunting said that the power to authorize and license the operation and maintenance of cockpits and regulate commercial breeding of gamecocks has already been devolved to local government units (LGUs) pursuant to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. Thus, he opined, it is not within the purview of the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) to regulate local cockfighting.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting laid down the following issues which need to be resolved by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has the authority to allow or prevent live streaming or broadcasting of local cockfights? • Is <i>e-sabong</i> legal? • Which government office should regulate <i>e-sabong</i>? • Should there be a separate betting station for <i>e-sabong</i> since the off-track betting (OTB) stations are only for horseracing? <p>ANAC-IC Party-List Rep. Jose Panganiban Jr. author of HR 598, cited the position taken by the Solicitor General that the <i>e-sabong</i> (or livestreaming of cockfighting events over the internet for betting purposes) currently operated by the Manila Cockers Club, Inc. (MCCI) is illegal, it being a form of gambling that finds no basis or authority in law. He also stated that based on the mandate of GAB, it has the power to stop any illegal gambling activities as they happen, but which is different from a regulatory power.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) said that there is no law authorizing betting activities outside the cockpits.</p> <p>Associate Solicitor General Atty. Jacqueline Torio affirmed Reps. Panganiban and Pineda's statements, adding that betting on cockfights in any location remote from where the cockfight is being held constitutes a crime punishable under Presidential Decree 1602, as amended, or the law prescribing stiffer penalties on illegal</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>gambling, and under PD 483 or the law penalizing betting, game-fixing or point shaving and machinations in sports contest.</p> <p>Torio went on to say that GAB has jurisdiction and mandate to enforce laws against illegal gambling under Administrative Orders 262 s. 1992 and 222 s. 1995. However, the regulation of livestreaming and broadcasting of cockfights falls outside of GAB's jurisdiction as this power belongs to the LGUs through their local <i>sanggunians</i>.</p> <p>On the other hand, GAB Chair Abraham Kahlil Mitra is of the opinion that the livestreaming of cockfights, whether or not for betting, is within GAB's regulatory powers.</p> <p>MCCI President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Fernando Domingo stands by his organization's position that its operation is legal citing the Cockfighting Law, as amended by the Local Government Code and the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 as its legal bases.</p> <p>Reps. Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY) and Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) stressed the need to craft a law regulating <i>e-sabong</i>.</p>
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	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd District, Surigao del Sur), terminated its inquiry relative to HR 882 subject to the submission of some pertinent documents, and without prejudice to its reopening if necessary.
	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	The Committee will deliberate further on the issues raised in HR 1126 in another meeting.
	<i>Motu Proprio</i> Inquiry		<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 	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the alleged irregular transactions of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte undertaken in 2012.</p> <p>Eric Zerrudo, proprietor of the Integrated Conservation Unlimited, Inc. (ICUI), recounted that sometime in May 2012, during an exhibit in Sarrat, he met Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, who proposed the idea of putting up a similar exhibit in the Paoay Museum. Afterwhich, he submitted a quotation for the project.</p> <p>Zerrudo testified that no bidding was conducted for the project and that he was paid in cash made in two tranches by Marcos' security personnel, which made him believe that the project was Marcos' personal undertaking.</p> <p>Replying to the queries of the lawmakers, Zerrudo denied submitting bidding documents,</p>

<p>Continuation... Good Government and Public Accountability</p>			<p>distribution to the different municipalities on December 11, 2012</p>	<p>paying any performance bond, nor signing the Notice of Award dated July 23, 2012. He claimed that his signature affixed to the said documents was forged.</p> <p>Likewise, Salvador Joel Alonday, sculptor for the eight bust sculptures installed in the Paoay Museum, said that he was not aware of any bidding process conducted for the service he rendered. He went on to say that the signatures on the purported bidding documents appear to be his but he does not recall signing those documents.</p> <p>Rep. Pimentel opined that the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the provincial Government of Ilocos Norte clearly falsified BAC's minutes of the proceedings of the opening of bids held on July 17, 2012.</p> <p>However, Engr. Pedro Agcaoili Jr., BAC chair and head of the Provincial Planning and Development Office of Ilocos Norte, maintained that Zerrudo and Alonday submitted eligibility requirements for the bidding on the development of Paoay Museum. Agcaoili was directed to submit the documents to substantiate his claim.</p> <p>On the query of Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas (1st District, Ilocos Norte), Zerrudo replied that it was the secretary of Marcos who instructed him to write "PTO" as payor in the official receipt issued by ICUI in the amount of P1.6 million. (It was not clear during the meeting what "PTO" stands for, or if it is the acronym for an office or initials of a person's name.)</p> <p>The Committee required the submission of the income tax returns (ITRs) of the suppliers involved in the five questioned transactions.</p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretariat to invite Charity Piedad, the payee for Alpie's Trading transactions, in its next meeting. It was alleged that many of the purchases made in connection with the questioned transactions were from Alpie's Trading.</p>
<p>Higher and Technical Education jt. w/ Labor and Employment</p>	<p>HBs 5729, 5889, 5923 & 6287</p>	<p>Reps. Vargas, Tugna, Herrera-Dy, and Villafuerte</p>	<p>Instituting a Philippine Labor Force Competencies Competitiveness Program, and establishing free access to technical and vocational training programs</p>	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Rep. Ann Hofer (2nd District, Zamboanga Sibugay), Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and Rep. Randolph Ting (3rd District, Cagayan), Chair of the Committee on Labor and Employment, agreed to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>Rep. Hofer said that the Joint Committee has yet to decide whether to adopt the Senate version or conduct a Bicameral Conference Committee meeting to harmonize the provisions of both the House and the Senate bills. This after Rep. Hofer received a communication from the Senate requesting the House to concur with the Senate version of the bill which was already approved on third reading.</p> <p>Various stakeholders present expressed their support for the bill, which is also known as the "Tulong –Trabaho Act."</p>

Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 133 & 177	Reps. Batocabe and Ramirez-Sato	Ensuring the preservation and management of protected areas, amending for the purpose RA 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992	The Committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Carlo Cua, approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 133 and 177. Representatives from the Department of Finance (DOF), National Tax Research Center (NTRC), and Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR) expressed support for the bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 438	Rep. Bravo (A.)	Establishing a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 438. Representatives from the DOF and the NTRC expressed support for the bill.
	HB 3222	Deputy Speaker Cayetano	Establishing a national vision screening program for kindergarten pupils and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of HB 3222. Representatives from the DOF and the NTRC expressed support for the bill.
	Substitute Bills to HBs 230, 610 & 2789	Deputy Speaker Singson, Reps. Eriguel and Rodriguez (I.)	Declaring the Bessang Pass Natural Monument in the Municipality of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, the Ago-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape in the Province of La Union, and the Pamitanin Cave in the Municipality of Rodriguez, Province of Rizal as protected areas under the category of protected landscape and providing for its management	The Committee approved the tax provision of the three Substitute Bills. Representatives from the DOF, NTRC, and BMB - DENR expressed support for the bill.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3927 & 5243	Reps. Bautista-Bandigan and Cagas	Separating the Southern Philippines Agriculture, Business, Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST)- Digos campus in the City of Digos, Davao del Sur from the SPAMAST in Malita, Davao Occidental and converting it into a state college to be known as the Davao del Sur State College and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 3927 and 5243. Representatives from the DOF and the NTRC expressed support for the bill.
	HB 2362	Rep. Bravo (M.)	Establishing the Bongsanglay Mangrove Forest Reserve and Natural Park in the Province of Masbate and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provision of HB 2362. Representatives from the DOF, NTRC, and BMB - DENR expressed support for the bill.
	HB 3929	Rep. Lobregat	Converting the Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College into a state university to be known as Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University	The Committee approved the tax provision of HB 3929. Representatives from the DOF and the NTRC expressed support for the bill.
	HB 4218	Rep. Almario	Converting the Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology in the City of Mati and all its satellite campuses located in the Province of Davao Oriental into a state university to be known as the Davao Oriental State University, integrating therewith the Governor Generoso College of Arts, Science and Technology in the	The Committee approved the tax provision of HB 4218. Representatives from the DOF and the NTRC expressed support for the bill.

Continuation... Ways and Means			Municipality of Governor Generoso, Province of Davao Oriental and appropriating funds therefor	
Welfare of Children	Substitute Bill to HBs 321, 437, 2349, 3043 & 3943	Reps. Primicias-Agabas, Bravo (A.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Roque (H.), and Salon	Regulating the importation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of children's products containing hazardous chemicals, and providing penalties for violation thereof	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), approved the Committee Report on the substitute bill.
	HBs 173, 1163 & 3887	Reps. Nograles (K.A.), Acosta-Alba, and Escudero	Recognizing and strengthening alternative care of children, providing incentives to agencies providing the same	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 173, 1163, 3887 and 5090. The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas). Assistant Director Rosalie Dagulo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Protective Services Bureau opined that providing a "planned temporary substitute parental care" to a child is already covered by RA 10165 or the Foster Care Act of 2012. Dagulo recommended strengthening the Foster Care Act and related programs rather than create another agency which would entail huge costs. Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) Executive Director Bernadette Abejo spoke of the need to strengthen the Foster Care Act as she cited the tedious and very long period of processing applications for inter-country adoption, which takes about three to four years. Atty. Avvy Alba of the Organization, Position, Classification and Compensation Bureau, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), stated that the proposed creation of an Alternative Care Agency (ACA) would mean additional expenses to the government and would duplicate the functions of the DSWD. Representatives from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC), and SOS Adoption Villages, a non-government organization (NGO), expressed support for the bills. On the other hand, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) manifested that they are currently studying the bills. The DSWD was requested to submit a list of requirements for the accreditation of child care institutions. Likewise, the resource persons were requested to submit their position papers for the consideration of the TWG.
	HB 5090	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Codifying the alternative child care laws of the Philippines	
	HB 6228	Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo	Strengthening and reorganizing the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6228 in its next meeting. HB 6228, authored by Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2 nd District, Pampanga), seeks to review and amend PD 603 or the Child and Youth Welfare Code of the Philippines by strengthening the Council for Welfare of Children (CWC) as the

Continuation... Welfare of Children				<p>inter-agency body tasked to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all laws, policies, and programs for children.</p> <p>DSWD Project Development Officer Dwight Zabala emphasized the need to conduct a comprehensive review of the child rights coordination structures in the country by looking at the roles of the different national child-centered organizations to ensure that they do not have overlapping functions and they remain effective in their mandates.</p> <p>The stakeholders present were requested to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS		
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 Court of Appeals (CA) Associate Justice Jose Reyes Jr. on the proposed amendments to Article VIII (Judicial Department) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Castro explained to the body that the purpose of the Subcommittee's review of the 1987 Philippine Constitution is not only to receive suggestions to the proposed shift to a federal form of government but also to determine what constitutional provisions need revisions in order for the government to effectively attend to the present needs of the country.</p> <p>Reyes disclosed that the CA has not yet discussed the effect of the proposed shift to a federal form of government to the entire Judiciary. Nevertheless, he expressed his appreciation of the proposal of the Federalism Study Group of the PDP-Laban Federalism Institute that members of the Judiciary will be exempted from paying the income tax should the proposed federalism form of government be adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Institute to permanently assign a division of the CA in every region, Reyes said that the Judiciary has already started decentralizing the powers and functions of the CA pursuant to RA 8246, which paved the way for the establishment of CA divisions in Visayas and Mindanao.</p> <p>Reyes also suggested that the body seriously ponder on the huge financial requirement of changing the government to a federal form.</p> <p>The CA will study the proposed amendments to the Constitution submitted by the Institute, the one attached to Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 8, and the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center and will submit its position paper in due time.</p> <p>Aside from commenting on Article VIII, Deputy Speaker Castro also encouraged the CA to comment on the other articles assigned to the Subcommittee II, namely: Bill of Rights (Article III), Citizenship (Article IV), Suffrage (Article V), Constitutional Commissions (Article IX), and Amendments or Revisions (Article XVII); and all other articles of the 1987 Constitution that it believes should be revisited.</p>
Subcommittee IV (Constitutional Amendments)	Review of certain provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in connection with the proposed shift to a federal form of government	The Subcommittee IV, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), listened to the views of the resource persons on the proposed amendments to Article XI (Accountability of Public

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee IV (Constitutional Amendments)</p>		<p>Officers), Article XIII (Social Justice and Human Rights), Article XIV (Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture and Sports), and Article XV (The Family) of the 1987 Constitution.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Health (DOH), and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) expressed support for the move to shift to a federal form of government.</p> <p>DOH Health Research Division Chief Beverly Ho said that the shift to federalism would bring about the full devolution of healthcare services to the local government units (LGUs), thereby making these services accessible to the people. She went on to say that DOH will still continue with its universal healthcare program under a federal form of government.</p> <p>DAR Undersecretary Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan advised that government should still pursue its agrarian reform agenda and retain the social justice provisions in Article XIII to ensure that landless farmers will be protected even with the shift to federalism.</p> <p>Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco inquired if it is possible to remove the provision in the Constitution that requires consultation prior to relocation of informal settler families or individuals to a new settlement site.</p> <p>HUDCC Legal Group Head Angelito Aguila answered in the affirmative, saying that consultations delay the relocation process. He added though that consultations are conducted not to provide the informal settlers with other options but only to prepare and orient them about their relocation.</p> <p>With regard to the universal healthcare program of the government, Rep. Romeo Acop (2nd District, Antipolo City) expressed his concern over PhilHealth's ability to provide adequate health services to the people, while Rep. Veloso mentioned the inadequate health clinics and facilities in far-flung areas.</p> <p>Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Policy Advisory Office head Gemma Parojinog informed the Committee that CHR will submit its official position paper on the proposed shift to federalism next week.</p> <p>Rep. Reynaldo Umali (2nd District, Oriental Mindoro) urged the resource persons to be guided by the experiences of the past in coming up with proposals amending or revising the Constitution. He maintained that a new Constitution should be genuinely responsive to the needs of the people, especially the poor and the landless.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Metro Manila Development (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 4642 & 5057	Rep. Castelo	Amending RA 7924 or the law creating the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), to enhance the effectiveness of the Metropolitan Manila Council (MMC) in the formulation of policies, rules, regulations, and laws for Metro Manila and providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, approved the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 4642 and 5057 subject to amendment. The Secretariat was directed to submit the bill to the mother Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) pointed out that the bill, which may have</p>

Continuation... Metro Manila Development (Technical Working Group)				<p>provisions that effectively amends RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, should have been deliberated on jointly with the House Committee on Local Government. In reply, Rep. Sandoval said that it will be the mother Committee which will endorse the bill to the appropriate Committees, if necessary.</p> <p>Rep. Carlo Lopez (2nd District, Manila) brought up the issue on the possibility of a conflict between the issuances of the MMC and those of the traffic crisis chief who will be appointed under HB 6425 or the proposed "Traffic Crisis Act," which was approved by the Committee on Transportation and is now pending with the Committee on Rules.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City), author of HB 5057, explained that with the clear inability of local government units (LGUs) to resolve traffic congestion in Metro Manila, it is imperative that the MMC be strengthened to be able to effectively handle the problem.</p> <p>Under the proposed law, the MMC will undertake the function of prescribing, formulating and issuing ordinances, rules and regulations, setting policies and standards for metro-wide application governing the delivery of basic services within the mandate of the MMDA. The MMC ordinances shall be presented to the <i>Sanggunian</i> of each city or municipality for approval.</p> <p>The MMDA was requested to submit a copy of its proposed itemized expenditure program on the upgrading or modernizing of its equipment and on the hiring of additional personnel which will be incorporated in the bill.</p>
Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HB 126	Rep. Lobregat	Allowing local government units (LGUs) to suspend the mandatory wearing of motorcycle helmets, amending for the purpose RA 10054, otherwise known as the Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by BUHAY Party-List Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr., will deliberate further on HBs 126 and 2337 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Pasay City Rep. Emi Calixto-Rubiano explained that HB 2337 seeks to amend Section 3 of RA 10054 by mandating the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to include in the specifications for the required protective motorcycle helmet the use of an "untinted" or transparent face cover that depicts or shows the face of the driver and the back rider.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Celso Lobregat's (1st District, Zamboanga City) HB 126 allows LGUs, where there is a high incidence of crimes committed by motorcycle riders, to temporarily suspend the mandatory wearing of motorcycle helmets for one year.</p> <p>Both authors underscored the importance of amending RA 10054 due to the increasing number of criminal activities involving motorcycle riders and back riders who are able to conceal their identities by using helmets with dark-tinted face covers.</p>
	HB 2337	Rep. Calixto-Rubiano	Amending RA 10054	

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>However, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon and PBA Party-List Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar said that in trying to solve crimes perpetrated by motorcycle riders, the right of the riders to secure their own safety should not be disregarded.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the Philippine National Police - Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) manifested their support for the bills, but likewise agreed that the proposed law should be able to strike the right balance between the riders' safety and the security of the community.</p> <p>Several riders' groups such as the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA), Motorcycle Philippines Federation (MPF), Riders' Safety Advocates of the Philippines, and Riders of the Philippines argued that the safety of the motorcycle riders should not be compromised with the government's effort to solve criminality.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
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AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Metro Manila Development</p>	<p>Update by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on the utilization of funds for medical and other assistance to its beneficiaries in Metro Manila</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, listened to DSWD's report on the utilization of funds for medical and other assistance to its beneficiaries in Metro Manila.</p> <p>DSWD National Capital Region (NCR) Director Vincent Andrew Leyson reported that as of October 5, 2017, the DSWD has spent a total of P616.55 million for medical and other forms of assistance to residents of Metro Manila. The amount came from the DSWD NCR's continuing and current year's appropriations.</p> <p>According to Leyson, upon the DSWD-NCR's request in July 2017 for augmentation funding for its assistance programs in Metro Manila for the rest of the year, the Office of the DSWD Secretary granted the amount of P233 million. However, no release of funds has yet been made, Leyson said.</p> <p>The Committee will invite DSWD OIC-Secretary Emmanuel Leyco to attend its next meeting to explain the non-release of the P233 million fund. It also requested the DSWD to submit a report on the assistance provided by the DSWD to each congressional district in Metro Manila.</p>