

Committee Daily Bulletin



17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 70
January 21, 2019

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 7376 & SB 1823	Rep. Alvarez (P.) and Sen. Escudero	Further strengthening the Office of the Solicitor General by increasing its powers and functions, and augmenting its employee benefits, amending for the purpose RA 9417 and EO 292, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-presided by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso (3rd District, Leyte), Vice Chair of the House Committee on Justice, and Sen. Richard Gordon, Chair of the Senate Committee on Justice, approved the harmonized version of HB 7376 and SB 1823 with amendments.</p> <p>Other conferees who were present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), Reps. Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), and Anthony Bravo, Ph.D. (Party-List, COOP NATCCO); on the part of the Senate, Minority Leader Franklin Dilon and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Games and Amusements	Substitute Bill to HBs 4843 & 6983	Reps. Batocabe (dec.) and Bernos	Strengthening the Games and Amusements Board (GAB)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 4843 and 6983, as amended.
Higher and Technical Education	HB 8781	Rep. Hofer	Establishing a provincial office of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Antique Rep. Paolo Everardo Javier, approved HB 8781 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HR 2208	Rep. Belmonte (F.)	Urging the University of the Philippines (UP) to renew its memorandum of agreement and lease with the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) over a parcel of land occupied by the QCPD headquarters now known as Camp Tomas B. Caringal in Diliman, Quezon City	<p>The Committee adopted HR 2208 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>
	HR 2319	Rep. Tinio	Urging the UP Board of Regents to reconsider its policy of limiting the commutation of faculty sick leave benefits only to "serious or severe illnesses" in cases of optional retirement	<p>The Committee adopted HR 2319 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p>

Justice	Substitute Bill to HBs 2, 505, 935, 1609, 2009 & 3973	Deputy Speaker Castro, Reps. Yap (V.), Tiangco, Cagas, Acop, and Suansing (E.)	Expanding the scope of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare System and strengthening the social reintegration programs for children in conflict with the law, amending for the purpose RA 9344, as amended, otherwise known as the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Doy Leachon (1st District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the Substitute Bill to the six measures and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Leachon explained that the bill seeks to protect children from being used by criminals and syndicates to carry out criminal acts for them to evade prosecution and punishment. He also stated that in the proposed law, children in conflict with the law will not be put to jail but will be committed to reformatory institutions such as the "Bahay Pag-asa" under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).</p> <p>One of the provisions of the bill states that a child nine years of age and above but below eighteen years of age shall "be exempt from criminal liability and be subjected to an intervention program, unless the child has acted with discernment, in which case, such child shall be subjected to the appropriate proceedings in accordance with this Act."</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 72, 706, 2477, 3642, 6117, 6636, 7269, 7318 & 8397	Reps. Vargas, Angara-Castillo, Castelo, Laogan, Salo, Olivarez, Villafuerte, Siao, and Nieto	Institutionalizing the grant of student fare discount privileges on public transportation	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), approved with amendments the tax provisions of the substitute bill.</p> <p>One of the amendments agreed upon was the deletion of Section 7 or the provision on tax deduction given that public utility vehicles (PUVs) such as buses and jeepneys do not issue official receipts which will be the main basis for such tax deduction.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 7333 & 7535	Reps. Vargas and Villafuerte	Amending Chapter V, Section 85 (a) of RA 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009"	<p>The Committee approved with amendment the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HBs 7333 and 7535, extending for seven years (or until December 31, 2026) the tax incentive period for tourism enterprise zone (TEZ) operators.</p> <p>Originally, a 10-year tax incentive period was prescribed under RA 9593 but was not immediately implemented by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) because of the delay in the issuance of the appropriate implementing rules and regulations (IRR) or revenue regulations.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group)	HBs 532, 3330, 4325, 4810, 7289, 7935, 7993 & 8340	Reps. Batocabe (dec.), Olivarez, Biazon, Noel, Villafuerte, Barbers, and Alejano	Regulating the use, packaging, sale, distribution, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes or vaporized nicotine products (VNPs)	The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, and Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, terminated its deliberation on the nine bills. The Secretariat will draft a substitute bill that will be submitted to the mother Committee for the latter's consideration and approval.

Continuation... Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health (Technical Working Group)	HB 8671	Rep. Garcia (J. E.)	Restricting the importation, manufacture, use, sale, distribution, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes	<p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 8671, expressed concern that the mere regulation of e-cigarettes will still allow the use of this alternative form of smoking, thereby exposing the youth to this vice which is among the leading causes of mortality in the country. He, however, said that should the TWG finally recommend the regulation of e-cigarettes, appropriate guidelines should be put in place to ensure that the number of youth smokers will not increase.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), co-author of HBs 532 and 3330, and Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City), author of HB 4810, underscored the importance of regulating e-cigarettes that are already being used as an alternative to traditional cigarettes to protect the people from the health hazards of the product.</p> <p>Representatives from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) explained that all forms of smoking, whether traditional or non-traditional, pose health risks to the users.</p> <p>The members of the TWG agreed, among others, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) should be used in the proposed law instead of VNP's to be consistent with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; • The packaging of e-cigarette products should contain appropriate health warnings, product ingredients and components, and other specifications as directed by the FDA; • The sale of the product to minors or to individuals aged 21 years and below shall be prohibited; and • The sale and distribution of ENDS shall be prohibited within a minimum of 100 meters from any point of the perimeter of schools, public playgrounds, youth hostels, and recreational facilities for minors.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	---------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PUBLIC HEARING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Rules	HR 2104	Majority Leader Andaya	Inquiry into the legal basis and possible effects of the shift from an obligation-based to a cash-based budgeting system as proposed in the fiscal year 2019 national budget	The Committee, chaired by Majority Leader Rolando Andaya Jr. (1 st District, Camarines Sur), held its third public hearing on issues relative to HR 2104 and Privilege Speech 430 at the House of Representatives.
	Privilege Speech 430	Majority Leader Andaya	On the assertion of the House of Representatives' power over the budget	Majority Leader Andaya stressed that apart from the P75 billion "insertion" in the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) budget for 2019, the Senate discovered that another P27.7 billion was also added to the 2019 budget of the

Continuation... Rules				<p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) without the knowledge of the DILG Secretary.</p> <p>He asserted that evidences gathered by the Committee are enough to file a plunder case against those involved in anomalous transactions, such as the Aremar Construction Corp. (Aremar), the company in which the son-in-law of Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno has a stake. It was alleged that Aremar used Triple A contractors as dummies to bag several huge infrastructure projects in the Bicol Region.</p> <p>In addition, Majority Leader Andaya questioned the involvement of the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) in the bidding of government infrastructure projects including P168.28 billion worth of projects of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), which he claimed is outside the agency's technical expertise. Under RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act), the PS is authorized to procure common-use supplies and equipment (CSEs) of the government. But when the 2016 revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 9184 was promulgated, the PS was also allowed to be involved in the procurement of non-CSE items, Majority Leader Andaya said.</p> <p>PS Executive Director Bingle Gutierrez clarified that the PS is attached to the DBM for administrative supervision only, and maintains its independence from the latter in terms of its day-to-day operations. Gutierrez added that the PS only acts as a procurement agent of the implementing agencies upon the latter's request, and merely makes recommendations to these procuring entities or agencies. The decision to approve or disapprove PS' recommendations depends on the head of these government agencies.</p>
--------------------------	--	--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Development Manila	Update on the flagship infrastructure projects in Metro Manila particularly the subway networks	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), will continue its discussion on the status and issues concerning the planned Metro Manila subway project, which is one of the government's flagship infrastructure projects in the country, in its next meeting.</p> <p>Based on the current plan, the Metro Manila subway route will start from Mindanao Avenue-Quirino Highway to Tandang Sora, North Avenue, and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, passing through East Avenue, Anonas, and Katipunan Avenue also in Quezon City, before going to Ortigas in Pasig City, all the way</p>

<p>Continuation... Metro Development</p> <p>Manila</p>		<p>to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), after passing through some areas in Makati City and Taguig City.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Erice (2nd District, Caloocan City) again questioned the implementing agencies why the original North Avenue to Ortigas segment of the subway route was changed to include routes crossing East Avenue, Anonas and Katipunan. According to Rep. Erice, the additional routes would not only cost the government more but would cater to less people since these are not the usual commuter routes. He also claimed that the route change would pose greater environment risks.</p> <p>Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Timothy Batan stressed that, on the contrary, the new subway route will actually cater to more people since it will service commuters in areas that are not currently being serviced by the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) in EDSA.</p> <p>Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Task Force Special Operations head Edison Nebrija added that the MRT-3 cannot fully support the volume of commuters on EDSA.</p> <p>The members of the inter-agency committee responsible for the decision to realign the segment of the subway route will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting.</p>
	<p>Discussion on the proliferation of political/electoral campaigns/advertisements that blight Metro Manila and violate the rules of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC)</p>	<p>The Committee terminated its discussion on the proliferation of electoral campaign materials and advertisements in Metro Manila that violates the election law and the rules of COMELEC. The electoral body was aptly reminded of its duty to ensure that candidates observe the law.</p> <p>COMELEC Information Officer Leo Lim stated that the official start of the campaign period for national and local positions will be on February 12 and March 29, respectively. He reminded the candidates to strictly abide by the election laws and COMELEC rules.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo inquired if there had been an instance wherein a candidate has been disqualified for violation of rules concerning the posting of electoral campaign materials and advertisements. Lim replied in the negative, explaining the difficulty of pinning down candidates since they would often blame political rivals or opponents as the culprits behind the violations.</p> <p>The COMELEC was requested to submit to the Committee a list of all the candidates for the May 2019 local and national elections.</p>