



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 12
August 13, 2020

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 307, 3072 & 4978	Reps. Salceda, Sy-Alvarado, and Nieto	Establishing public schools in geographically isolated disadvantaged conflict-affected areas, and access roads leading to last mile public schools, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the Substitute Bill subject to style and amendment and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples was requested to submit its position paper on the proposed law.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 311, 514, 1244, 1411, 2671, 3303, 3433, 3505, 4131, 4196, 4527, 4719, 4629, 5090, 5226, 5806, 6964 & 7222	Reps. Salceda, Roman, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Vargas, Dy (F.M.C.), Yap (V.), Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Silverio, Lacson, Olivarez, Nieto, Dimaporo (A.), Bordado, Rodriguez, Delos Santos, Gatchalian, and Tutor	Establishing the public schools of the future in technology (PSOFT), providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to the 18 bills subject to style and amendment and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 4629 and Chair of the technical working group that consolidated the bills, said that the proposed law seeks to establish the PSOFT in order to digitalize the public education system to allow Filipino basic education students better access to quality education and to the vast academic resources available online.</p> <p>A PSOFT Inter-Agency Taskforce (IATF) will be created to implement the PSOFT, which includes the training of students and teachers to develop computer skills and preparing the required curriculum and physical and digital infrastructure of public schools. The proposed PSOFT IATF will be composed of the Department of Education, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the National Economic and Development Authority.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo added that the proposed PSOFT program will have three pilot schools (one each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) which will be equipped with the necessary gadgets and internet connectivity.</p> <p>Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) said that the proposed law should ensure that the implementation of the PSOFT program would not entail any cost on the part of the teachers.</p> <p>The resource persons from Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. assured the body that they will improve their services nationwide to help in the digitalization of schools.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture	HBs 2314 & 6142	Rep. Gatchalian	Establishing the Santos Encarnacion Elementary School and Malinta Elementary School Pinalagad Annex, respectively, as separate and independent elementary schools, both located in Valenzuela City, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 2314 and 6142 subject to style and the corresponding Committee Reports.
	HB 7189	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Instituting flexible learning in the basic education curriculum by fully integrating outside class learning, establishing a digital transformation of education roadmap for the effective delivery of education through information and communications technology	The Committee approved the consolidation of HB 7189 with the Substitute Bill to HBs 6691 and 6904, which has a similar subject matter and was approved by the Committee in the previous meeting.
Energy	Substitute Bill to HBs 1193 & 1266	Rep. Velasco and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Establishing the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute (PERPI)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will deliberate further on the Substitute Bill to HBs 1193 and 1266 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Velasco said that the Senate already approved on Third Reading a bill with similar subject matter.</p> <p>The Committee thoroughly discussed the draft substitute bill and agreed on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute (PERPI) shall be a non-stock, non-profit government corporation that shall provide timely technical assistance to the government on energy planning and help address energy issues through policy advice; • The PERPI shall be attached to the Office of the University of the Philippines (UP) President, but it shall operate independently from the UP system and shall have a separate budget; • The PERPI Advisory Council shall be composed of 10 members: four from the academe; one from the private sector; and five ex-officio members who are the Secretaries of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Energy, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the UP President; • The PERPI Executive Director shall be appointed by the UP President and shall serve for a term of five years which may be renewed once for another five years. The Executive Director shall not be allowed to practice any profession during his/her term, except on a teaching capacity; and • The amount of P200 million shall be appropriated as initial budget for the operationalization of the Institute.

Continuation... Energy				The Committee requested the Bureau of Treasury and the Department of Budget and Management to submit their respective position papers, which shall be taken into consideration in the crafting of the final version of the substitute bill.
Transportation	HB 859	Rep. Aglipay	Providing for the regulation of activities of taxi drivers and operators	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), author of HB 859, was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), among others.</p> <p>LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III proposed the inclusion of all modes of passenger-based transport in the coverage of the proposed law.</p> <p>PNP-HPG Operations Management Division Chief Oliver Sy Tanseco proposed that the following be incorporated in the substitute bill: use of safety devices; strict adherence by taxi drivers to the prescribed speed and restrictions reflected in their license; police clearance for taxi drivers; road-worthiness of taxis; and allocation of a portion of the collections from penalties to law enforcement.</p>
	HBs 3051 & 5156	Reps. Tan (A.) and Yap (E.)	Establishing the rights of passengers of taxis, tourist car transport services (TCTS), and other similar vehicles for hire (VFH)	
	HB 5195	Rep. Noel	Establishing the Bill of Rights of Taxi Passengers	
	HBs 1679, 4670 & 6006	Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Rep. Garcia (J.E.), and Deputy Speaker Villanueva (E.)	Enhancing the safety of pedestrians, further amending RA 4136, as amended, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 4670, was designated as head of the TWG.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the LTO, LTFRB, and PNP-HPG.</p> <p>Tanseco suggested that the proposed law also give due consideration to the needs of persons with disabilities and senior citizens.</p> <p>Delgra, on the other hand, proposes the enactment of a comprehensive pedestrian law and the development of road walkways to ensure the safety of the pedestrians.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)	HBs 914, 1335, 1368, 2617 & 2658	Reps. Tan (A.S.), Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps.	Establishing the Philippine Corn Research Institute and appropriating funds therefor	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano (1 st District, Isabela), terminated its deliberation on HBs 914, 1335, 1368, 2617 and 2658. The

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Agriculture and Food (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HBs 3375 & 4108</p>	<p>Go (E.C.), Albano (A.), and Dy (I.P.)</p> <p>Reps. Garin (S.) and Rodriguez</p>	<p>Promoting and supporting the development of the corn industry, establishing the Philippine Corn Industry Development Authority (CORNDEV), appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>Secretariat was directed to come up with a Substitute Bill to be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, the Members and the authors decided to exclude HBs 3375 and 4108 from today's discussion and hold a separate TWG meeting for the two bills. They acknowledged the peculiarities and differences between the Philippine CORNDEV and the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PhilCorn).</p> <p>Agriculture Secretary William Dar recommended that the proposed PhilCorn be organized in the same way as the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), a government corporate entity under the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>As proposed, the PhilCorn is envisioned to modernize the corn industry and consequently expand livelihood opportunities and increase the income of resource-poor corn farmers in the rainfed, upland, and dryland farming communities. It will also enable farmers to use and harness appropriate science and technology to effectively address problems of low yields and other concerns brought about by droughts, floods, land degradation, global warming, and other risks arising from environmental and climate change.</p> <p>The PhilCorn shall have its principal office at the Isabela State University and may also establish offices, branches, satellite offices or subsidiaries in any geographically suitable region in the Philippines that are major producers of corn.</p> <p>Among the recommendations adopted by the TWG pertaining to the proposal to establish the PhilCorn were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the Undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform as member of the Board of Trustees of PhilCorn; • Clarify the role of the private sector and the farmers in corn research and development; and • Appoint three state university presidents to head PhilCorn's principal office in Luzon and regional offices in Visayas and Mindanao.
<p>Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HBs 68, 368, 742, 896, 1547, 1548, 2995, 3755, 4104, 5761 & 5932</p>	<p>Reps. Barbers, Yap (V.), Biazon, Mariño, Garbin, Castro (F.L.), Belmonte, and Cabochan</p>	<p>Strengthening drug abuse prevention and control, amending for the purpose RA 9165, as amended, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), will deliberate further on the 11 bills in its next meeting. The Secretariat was directed to come up with a draft substitute bill.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 2765, informed the body that he is withdrawing his bill as it does not contain death penalty provisions as opposed to the majority of the</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Dangerous Drugs (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>bills. However, he still recommended to allow members of the media to cover anti-drug operations for journalism purposes only, which was approved by the TWG.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG thoroughly reviewed the provisions of the 11 bills and noted the comments and recommendations of the resource persons from the following agencies: Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Justice, Department of Health, Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Dangerous Drugs Board.</p> <p>Most of the recommendations of the PDEA and NBI were adopted by the TWG.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their additional recommendations on certain sections of the bills for the TWG's consideration in drafting the substitute bill.</p>
<p>Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 82</p>	<p>Rep. Garbin</p>	<p>Amending Sections 9 and 41 of RA 8291 or the Government Service Insurance Act of 1997, by defining "basic monthly pension" and increasing the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), terminated its discussion on the bills. The Secretariat was instructed to prepare a substitute bill to be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Rep. Castro informed the body that HBs 7163 and 7232 are two additional measures that were recently referred to the Committee which will be included in the deliberations of bills amending the GSIS Charter.</p> <p>She mentioned HB 7163 which seeks to provide an option to elected officials who have completed their maximum elected terms to continue their membership with the GSIS by paying voluntary contribution until they complete the minimum 15-year service requirement to be entitled to retirement benefit.</p> <p>GSIS Legal Services Group Acting Chief Legal Counsel Lucio Yu Jr. explained that there is a need to further study HB 7163 because the GSIS benefits are intended for government employees only. Since elected officials who finished their term could no longer be considered as government employees, he suggested that a different mechanism be provided in the Charter for the purpose.</p> <p>Rep. Castro suggested to include in the provision not only elected officials but also other government employees who have been separated from government service and have not completed the required 15-year membership to be entitled to retirement benefits.</p> <p>Among the agreements reached during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basis for the computation of
<p>HBs 228, 1033 & 2787</p>	<p>Reps. Castro (F.L.), Salceda, and Rodriguez</p>	<p>Further strengthening the GSIS</p>		
<p>HBs 1651 & 4537</p>	<p>Rep. Cabochan and Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto</p>	<p>Institutionalizing the rights of GSIS members, providing them additional representation in the GSIS Board</p>		
<p>HB 2914</p>	<p>Rep. Castelo</p>	<p>Increasing the monthly income benefits for work-related permanent disability and death of workers and employees</p>		
<p>HB 4780</p>	<p>Rep. Guico</p>	<p>Mandating the payment of retirement benefits to Social Security System (SSS) or GSIS members within a maximum period of 30 days from the retirement date</p>		
<p>HB 4832</p>	<p>Rep. Nograles (J.J.)</p>	<p>Upgrading the pension benefits under the GSIS, further amending for the purpose PD 1146, as amended, also known as the Government Service Insurance Act of 1997</p>		
<p>HBs 5540 & 5714</p>	<p>Reps. Momo and Datol (dec.)</p>	<p>Providing for the automatic annual adjustment of the pension of retirees from the government who are members of the GSIS</p>		
<p>HB 5587</p>	<p>Rep. Noel</p>	<p>Amending PD 1146, as amended (by extending the age of legal dependents from 18 to 23 years old)</p>		

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization (Technical Working Group)	HBs 5833, 5962 & 6034	Rep. Salceda, Deputy Speaker Pimentel, and Rep. Rodriguez	Revised Charter of the GSIS	<p>retirement benefit would be the member's last basic salary instead of the average monthly compensation (AMC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The members' benefits in times of pandemic or health calamities shall be stated in the proposed law; and The GSIS shall approve appointments of its personnel according to the Civil Service Commission's rules and regulations, except appointments to positions which are policy determining, primarily confidential or highly technical in nature. <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers on the measures for the consideration of the TWG in crafting the substitute bill. Likewise, the GSIS was instructed to submit the pertinent data required by some of the Members.</p>
	HB 7163	Rep. Olivarez	Providing for an option for qualified elected officials to pay voluntary contribution to the GSIS to enable them to complete the minimum years of service, amending for the purpose Sections 13 and 13-a of RA 8291	
	HB 7232	Deputy Speaker Escudero	Amending Sections 7, 10, 23, 30, 31, 42 and 52 of RA 8291 (by adjusting the coverage benefits of GSIS, enhancing the law's penalty clause, giving the Regional Trial Courts concurrent jurisdiction with the GSIS in settling disputes, and increasing the representation of the Department of Education in the GSIS' Board of Trustees)	
Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	HB 749	Rep. Limkaichong	Requiring the use of standardized date labels on consumer products, amending for the purpose RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was invited to present its comments and recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Consumer Act of the Philippines as prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The DTI's version of the bill, which serves as the TWG's working draft, incorporated the salient provisions of the six bills under deliberation.</p> <p>FDA OIC-Deputy Director General Emilio Polig Jr. expressed support for the measure, but made several suggestions among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the FDA among the agencies that will implement the proposed law, particularly on the closure of businesses that violate the provisions of RA 7394; Impose higher penalties to manufacturers found to be violating the proposed law; and Provide for compensation for damages incurred by consumers due to defective products. <p>The Departments of Agriculture (DA) and Energy (DOE), as well as other stakeholders were requested to submit their position paper on the proposed law on or before August 20.</p>
	HB 1185	Deputy Speaker Romero	Amending RA 7394, increasing its penalties and sanctions, rationalizing its policies and guidelines	
	HBs 2779, 2902 & 4536	Reps. Rodriguez and Castelo, and Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Granting more protection to consumers, amending for the purpose RA 7394	
	HB 6420	Deputy Speaker Estrella	Protecting and promoting public health through appropriate, transparent and easily comprehensible labeling of all processed and semi-processed food products containing free sugars	

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p>Basic Education and Culture</p>	<p>Discussion with the Department of Education (DepEd) on its preparedness for the opening of classes for School Year 2020-2021</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, continued its discussion on the preparedness of DepEd for the opening of classes for SY 2020-2021 on August 24.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary Tonisito Umali said that the opening of classes is still scheduled on August 24 in the absence of any new directive. However, he said that Education Secretary Leonor Briones advised the regional directors to be prepared in the event that some areas will be reverted back to the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) and Rep. Romulo recommended that the opening of classes be moved to a later date. They said that there are still several impediments that need to be addressed prior to the implementation of the distance learning modality. Also, the DepEd should reassess the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELC) that it will be implementing for SY 2020-2021, considering that a number of learning competencies were removed or dropped from it.</p> <p>The MELC was formulated by DepEd's Bureau of Curriculum Development which further streamlined the essential learning competencies in response to the challenges on learning delivery posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The learning competencies that were retained are those considered as life-long learning and a pre-requisite skill to the next grade level. Examples of such learning competencies are research skills, reading comprehension, writing, map reading, and hypothesis testing, which are essential in many professions and in everyday life. <i>(Source: DepEd website)</i></p> <p>Reps. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), Jocelyn Fortuno (5th District, Camarines Sur), and Florida "Rida" Robes (San Jose del Monte City) expressed their concern for the teachers, many of whom are still not prepared for the opening of classes, and for the children who will be exposed to health risks given the increasing COVID-19 cases in the country. They also mentioned reports that some teachers resort to solicitation for the reproduction of Self-Learning Modules (SLM).</p> <p>Umali clarified that the solicitation may be in connection with the <i>Brigada Eskwela (BE)</i>, a DepEd initiative to promote "bayanihan" amid the COVID-19 pandemic to assist schools in preparing for the upcoming school year. The BE initiative includes the engagement of partners in the provision of learning options such as local radio and TV stations and other available media, and the printing of SLM for distance learning.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City) if learners will get an automatic pass during the pandemic, Umali replied that learners would still go through the same assessment procedure being conducted by the teachers.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan) inquired if the DepEd would be open to the suggestions of the local school boards after they have made their assessment of the blended learning for the first quarter. Umali answered yes, as long as the suggestions are aligned with DepEd's Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan.</p> <p>Responding to the request of Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd District, Lanao del Norte), Umali said that he will regularly update</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Sector 	<p>intact. Lautá added that the PNR has instituted measures to respond to COVID-19, such as the installation of modern thermal scanning equipment in the stations.</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Sarmiento's query on COVID-19 cases in PNR stations and other facilities, Lautá admitted that a number of employees were infected. But she was quick to say that the transmission was contained because of the single-symptom quarantine system implemented by the management wherein even the slight manifestation of Covid-19-like symptom entails immediate quarantine of the personnel concerned.</p> <p>Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Spokesperson Hernando Cabrera reported that several measures have been undertaken by the agency to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in the stations including the regular disinfection of LRT-2 trains and facilities and the installation of ticket vending machines and electronic loading machines. He said there were 12 COVID-19 cases reported in LRT-2.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark Steven Pastor and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Martin Delgra III both affirmed the readiness of the transport agencies in ensuring the resumption of public transport operation upon the lifting or downgrading of the MECQ in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. They confirmed that the number of authorized buses and routes, as well as jeepneys, will be increased post-MECQ.</p> <p>Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Jose Arturo Garcia said that concrete barriers will be strategically placed at the loading and unloading areas on EDSA to protect the commuters.</p> <p>Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan) and Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) insisted that the safety of the commuters should be the top priority of the agencies as they install barriers along EDSA, including the adoption of a safe design and putting lights on barriers to make them more visible to drivers.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Committee Vice Chair Rep. Claudine Diana Bautista (Party-List, DUMPER PTDA) gave an update on the status of the Special Amelioration Program (SAP) assistance extended to public utility jeepney (PUJ) drivers. Rep. Bautista said that as of August 5, a total of 186,940 PUJ drivers have received SAP assistance amounting to about P1.5 billion. She added that a total of 36,243 slots are still available, 1,000 of which will be assigned this week to PUJ drivers in Metro Manila. She thanked the LTFRB and the Department of Social Welfare and Development for facilitating the release of the SAP to the PUJ drivers.</p>
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