



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Justice	Substitute Bill to HBs 6348 & 7588	Rep. Flores and Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Granting survivorship benefits to the surviving legitimate spouse and dependent children of a deceased retired member of the National Prosecution Service (NPS), appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Leyte), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 6348 and 7588.
	HB 2946	Rep. Fariñas (R.C.)	Penalizing the act of throwing hard objects at motor vehicles	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 2946.
	HB 7668	Rep. Veloso	Amending Articles 183 and 184 of Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code (by increasing the penalty for providing false testimony or perjury)	<p>The Committee suspended its deliberation on HB 7668 pending the submission of proposals, comments, and recommendations from the Members.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso, author of HB 7668, said that his bill seeks to increase the penalty for perjury or providing false testimonies that will apply on guests or resource persons invited during congressional inquiries to deter them from lying under oath.</p> <p>Under HB 7668, the penalty will be increased to <i>prision mayor</i> in its minimum period (six years and one day up to eight years) up to <i>prision mayor</i> in its medium period (eight years and one day to 10 years). The existing penalty ranges from <i>arresto mayor</i> in its maximum period to <i>prision correccional</i> in its minimum period. The bill also provides that if the offender is a public officer or employee, the penalty of perpetual absolute disqualification from holding a position in public office and a fine not exceeding P1 million shall be imposed.</p> <p>Rep. Veloso also clarified that his bill only seeks to amend Articles 183 and 184 of the Revised Penal Code and not Articles 181 and 182 which prescribe the penalties for false testimonies in criminal and civil cases, respectively. He also said that a similar bill (SB 1354) filed by Senator Richard Gordon was already approved on Third Reading by the Senate on May 18, thus he urged the immediate passage of his bill to expedite its enactment into law.</p> <p>The Department of Justice expressed no objections to the bill.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), said that the proposed penalties in the bill will violate the equal protection provision of the</p>

Continuation... Justice				<p>Constitution since there will be different penalties for false testimonies in civil or criminal cases in courts and those in other cases such as in congressional or legislative inquiries. In addition, he said that providing a higher penalty for public officials such as the proposed disqualification from public office is likewise violative of the equal protection clause of the Constitution.</p> <p>Reps. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay) and Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte) concurred with the statements of Rep. Rodriguez. They suggested that the Committee study the bill further and to consider an increase in penalties for false testimonies that will be applicable to all cases and not just congressional inquiries.</p> <p>The Chair requested the Members and the resource persons to submit their proposed amendments to the bill.</p>
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