



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 64
November 24, 2020

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food jt. w/ North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)	HR 1348	Speaker Velasco	Inquiry into the severe and unprecedented flooding in the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, and Rep. Ramon "Mpn-Mon" Guico III (5th District, Pangasinan), Chair of the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, will continue its inquiry into the massive and unprecedented flooding in the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela in its next meeting.</p> <p>Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco (Marinduque), author of HR 1348, underscored the need to determine the causes of the severe and unprecedented flooding in the Cagayan Region, particularly in the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, so that this will not happen again. While the torrential rains during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses caused the swelling of the Cagayan River, what apparently aggravated the situation was the discharge of a huge volume of water from the Magat Dam at the height of the typhoon. The Speaker said that there is a need to find out if the release of water from the Magat Dam was done according to laws, rules and regulations. He added that with the weather forecast known beforehand, preemptive measures should have been undertaken instead of the usual reactive response to disasters.</p> <p>Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), co-author of HR 1348, said that the purpose of the inquiry is to establish the facts and empirical data on the causes of the severe flooding in the Cagayan Region and to seek answers to questions of culpability and accountability.</p> <p>Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, Bagong Henerasyon) and Rep. Joseph "Jojo" Lara (3rd District, Cagayan), respective authors of HRs 1345 and 1369, emphasized the need to identify appropriate strategies and infrastructure projects that will improve the dam management system in order to prevent a repeat of this catastrophe in the future.</p> <p>National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo Visaya maintained that his office followed the protocol on dam discharge and flood warning operations issued in 2006 when it released water from the Magat Dam during the typhoon. (The dam is located on the Magat River which is a major tributary</p>
	HR 1345	Rep. Herrera-Dy	Investigation into the untimely and irresponsible opening of floodgates of dams and watersheds in Luzon during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses	
	HR 1369	Rep. Lara	Inquiry into the massive flooding in the Province of Cagayan caused by Typhoon Ulysses and water released from the Magat Dam with the end goal of identifying needed infrastructure projects and government intervention programs to prevent similar disaster from happening again	

<p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food jt. w/ North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>				<p>that flows into the Cagayan River.) He said that the release of water from the dam was first done on November 9 at 3:00 p.m. He explained that if there is an abnormal inflow of water into the dam due to typhoons, water from the dam has to be released in order to protect the integrity of the dam. He added that the amount of water that was released from the Magat Dam may have contributed only about 15% of the flooding in the Region.</p> <p>Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Administrator Ricardo Jalad said that the flooding was caused by a number of factors such as soil erosion and low absorptive capacity of the land due to illegal logging and mining, extreme amount of rainfall because of the typhoon, and the release of water from the dam. He said that the courses of action taken by the OCD in response to the typhoon were all based on the advice of experts.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan assured the body that there is enough food supply in the affected areas despite the damage on agricultural lands.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Cagayan Valley Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said that her office will submit a comprehensive assessment report on the damages in the Region within 15 days.</p> <p>Atty. Maria Rosario Mamba-Villaflor, chief of staff of Cagayan Province Governor Manuel Mamba, reported that Typhoon Ulysses devastated 27 municipalities and affected 120,172 families in the province.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) asked the NIA as to who was responsible for the issuance of the announcement that water would be released from the dam.</p> <p>Visaya answered that the dam manager of the Magat Dam is responsible for issuing the announcement, with NIA giving the go signal to release water from the dam. He mentioned that the actual release of water from the dam was done six hours after the issuance of the announcement. He added that the decision to release water from the dam was arrived at in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).</p> <p>Replying to Rep. Quimbo's query on what the margin of error is in determining the amount of rainfall, PAGASA Administrator Vicente Malano admitted that the accuracy of the agency's rainfall forecast is only at 50%.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) asked why the NIA did not order a preemptive discharge of water from the Magat Dam days</p>
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<p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food jt. w/ North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>				<p>before the typhoon. Visaya replied that it is because NIA only received the advice from PAGASA in the morning of November 9, which was just two days before Typhoon Ulysses hit the country on November 11. PAGASA has made it known before that its rainfall data will only be accurate within two to three days before a typhoon, Visayas added.</p> <p>Rep. Ramon Nolasco Jr. (1st District, Cagayan) asked the NIA on the water level that has to be maintained in the Magat Dam and the purpose of maintaining such water level. NIA Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) Department Manager Wilfredo Gloria said that the dam's water level should be maintained at 193 meters for purposes of irrigation and power generation.</p> <p>Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3rd District, Iloilo) noted that based on the report submitted by the NIA to the Committee, all the spillway gates of the Magat Dam were opened on November 12 while only one spillway gate was opened on November 9. He said that more gates should have been opened in the earlier days and not during the height of the typhoon.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) apprised the body of the existence of the River Basin Control Office (RBCO) under the DENR. He said that the experts of this office should also be consulted with regard to the factors that contributed to the severe flooding.</p> <p>Rep. Jose "Bonito" Singson Jr. (Party- List, PROBINSYANO AKO) underscored the importance of conducting simulations to determine the effect of the release of water from the dam to the downstream areas. He also asked the NIA if it is earning income from the operation of the Magat Dam.</p> <p>Visaya said that the NIA earns P150 million a year from the dam being the source of water for the Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant operated by SN Aboitiz Power. With regard to the conduct of simulations, Flood Forecasting and Instrument Section Head Carlo Ablan of NIA-MARIIS Dam and Reservoir Division, admitted that the simulations that were conducted in the past covered limited areas.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) remarked that the proper conduct of such simulations could have prevented massive damage to property, injuries, and loss of life in the Region. He also recommended that a master plan on flood control should be formulated by concerned agencies taking into consideration all the river basins in the country. He agreed with the earlier suggestion of Deputy Speaker Savellano to seek the inputs and comments of the RBCO.</p>
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<p><i>Continuation...</i> Agriculture and Food jt. w/ North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (Special Committee)</p>				<p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar) recommended that a law should be enacted strengthening the powers and functions of the OCD, being the implementing arm of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and placing the OCD under the Office of the President (OP).</p> <p>Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano (1st District, Isabela) requested the concerned agencies to revisit and improve their protocol on the release of water from the dams and to submit their respective standard operating procedures on the matter.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit a copy of their respective reports that were presented during the meeting. The RBCO, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) will be invited to attend the next meeting.</p>
<p>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>	<p>HBs 2844, 5008 & 6636</p>	<p>Deputy Speakers Rodriguez and Gonzales, and Rep. Cabochan</p>	<p>Regulating the practice of environmental engineering in the Philippines, and providing funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao, will deliberate further on the three bills upon the submission of the position papers by the stakeholders.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to prepare a matrix showing the proposed amendments and recommendations of the resource persons on each provision of the bills as reference of the Members in the Committee's next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Siao said that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the Society of Environmental Engineering of the Philippines, Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Chemical Engineering, PRC Board of Mechanical Engineering, PRC Board of Sanitary Engineering, and PRC Board of Foresters. They, however, suggested that the proposed law should ensure that the practice of environmental engineering would not encroach on the scope of practice of other professions.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. (3rd District, Pampanga), and Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), authors of HBs 2844, 5008 and 6636, respectively, were amendable to the proposals of the resource persons.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez said that the different PRC Boards have raised important and valid points that would help the Committee refine the proposed law.</p>

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Civil Service and Professional Regulation</p>	<p>HBs 5132, 5505 & 5865</p>	<p>Rep. Dalog, Deputy Speaker Gonzales, and Rep. Tutor</p>	<p>Regulating the registration, licensure, and practice of physical therapy in the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on the three bills upon the submission of position papers by the stakeholders and the consolidation of the bills.</p> <p>Mt. Province Rep. Maximo Dalog Jr., author of HB 5132, said that his bill seeks to amend RA 5680 or the law creating the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy. He said that for almost 50 years, both professions were regulated and monitored by a common board. However, when RA 11241 was enacted in 2019, the PRC Board of Occupational Therapy was created, thereby separating the regulation and supervision of this practice from that of physical therapy. Hence, Rep. Dalog said it is necessary to enact a law that will create the PRC Board of Physical Therapy that will focus solely on regulating the registration, licensure and practice of physical therapy.</p> <p>Rep. Kristine Alexie Tutor (3rd District, Bohol), author of HB 5865, manifested that the explanatory note attached to her bill serves as her sponsorship speech. HB 5865 seeks to upgrade and update the physical therapy profession and align the profession's regulatory framework with both local and international standards of practice.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the PRC Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy and the Philippine Physical Therapy Association (PPTA).</p>
<p>Disaster Resilience</p>	<p>HR 535</p>	<p>Rep. Salceda</p>	<p>Declaring a disaster and climate emergency</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), adopted HR 535 and approved the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HR 535, said that a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-nation policy response is needed to halt, reduce, reverse, address, and adapt to the impacts, consequences, and causes of a disaster and climate change emergency that the Philippines continues to experience. He pointed out that by declaring a climate emergency, the Philippines can leverage its position, as an emerging market and a potential source of labor, to pursue an official foreign policy on international climate justice. Likewise, the country can use its domestic policies as moral leverage in pursuing financial claims for rehabilitation and climate-proofing.</p> <p>Furthermore, he said the declaration of a climate emergency will strengthen the country's position to seek concessions from heavily industrialized economies. He cited small island countries that are already pursuing legal action to seek climate reparations. Rep. Salceda stressed that</p>

<p>Continuation... Disaster Resilience</p>				<p>concrete steps must be undertaken to ensure that the country can protect its people through the pursuit of climate justice.</p> <p>Expressing support for the adoption of the resolution were representatives from the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), University of the Philippines (UP) Resilience Institute, Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development (LCCAD), and League of Provinces in the Philippines (LPP).</p> <p>CCC Commissioner Noel Antonio Gaerlan underscored the urgent need to operationalize the CCC's Climate Change Risk Management Framework (CCRMF) that would serve as basis in addressing the impact of changing climatic conditions and disasters related to climate change in the future.</p> <p>In addition, CCC Policy Research and Development Division Chief Jerome Ilagan recommended the timely study of some multi-lateral environmental agreements that have bearing on the Philippines' territorial, ecological, and ecosystem integrity which may help provide for the country's adaptation requirements.</p> <p>DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh echoed the statement of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu during a forum of the Cabinet Cluster that climate emergency remains urgent as ever and likened the severity of its impact to that of COVID-19, only that it is slow paced.</p> <p>DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) Supervising Science Research Specialist Liza Socorro Manzano proposed to integrate geoscience information with the country's disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) and land use plan. She further said that appropriate mitigation measures must be put in place and that people must be relocated away from disaster prone zones.</p> <p>NEDA Assistant Secretary Greg Pineda posited that convergence efforts toward strengthening the geoscience, technical innovation, and research and development for climate change adaptation and mitigation must be ensured. He also suggested mobilizing a disaster and climate change finance through the formulation of sustainable finance framework covering both the public and private sectors.</p>
	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 3046, 3450,</p>	<p>Rep. Tan (A.), Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto,</p>	<p>Providing for the construction of a multi-purpose gym in all municipalities and cities to serve as evacuation center during times</p>	<p>The Committee approved, with amendments, the Substitute Bill and the corresponding Committee Report.</p>

<p>Continuation... Disaster Resilience</p>	<p>3691, 4658, 4941, 4942, 5259, 5595, 5995, 6033,6074, 6170, 7004, 7164, 7305, 7315, 7324, 7506, 7867 & 7906</p>	<p>Reps. Castelo, Villafuerte, Torres-Gomez, Zarate, Nieto, Abu, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Rep. Olivarez, Salimbangon, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Rep. Tambunting, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Delos Santos, Bolilia, and Cabochan</p>	<p>of calamity or disaster and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Secretariat was directed to transmit the Substitute Bill to the Committee on Appropriations for the approval of the proposed law's funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Torres-Gomez said the past months have been another forceful reminder that natural disasters will inflict damage to the country on their own terms, and humans have no control over them. She noted that just for the past two typhoons alone, Rolly and Ulysses, which hit the country in November, a total of 1.5 million families were affected, many of whom needed to be evacuated.</p> <p>Hence, Rep. Torres-Gomez said it is imperative that the Committee act on the proposed law with dispatch considering the fact that local governments had to grapple with the lack of evacuation centers in times of disasters.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), head of the technical working group (TWG) that drafted the Substitute Bill, presented the salient features of the proposed law. He said the TWG adopted HB 3046 authored by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), as its working draft.</p> <p>Rep. Momo said that given the recent disasters and calamities that plagued the country, the need to approve the substitute bill on the establishment of evacuation centers becomes even more urgent and imperative. He stressed that the vulnerability and exposure of the country and its people to the destructive impact of both natural and human induced disasters emphasizes the necessity for a better local and national preparedness plan that includes the establishment of robust evacuation centers.</p> <p>Reps. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) and Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO) manifested the adoption of the explanatory note of their respective bills, HBs 7506 and 7906, as their sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the NEDA, PAGASA, DENR, Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), and LPP.</p> <p>Manzano commented that instead of mandating DENR to locate the site for the evacuation center, the Department should just be tasked to "assess the site," explaining that local government units (LGUs) are in a better position to identify possible areas for the evacuation centers.</p>
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Continuation... Disaster Resilience				<p>LPP National Chairperson and former House Member, Tarlac Governor Susan Yap, proposed among others, that adequate attention be given to disaster prone or vulnerable LGUs that may need more than one evacuation facility. Thus, the density of population, total land area, and average distance and accessibility of the evacuation center must be taken into account in the bill.</p> <p>DPWH Civil Engineer Visna Manio gave a brief update on the status of evacuation centers in the country. Manio reported that as of October 30, DPWH is implementing projects involving the construction of 317 evacuation centers spread all over the country. Of the total 317 evacuation centers, 145 are already completed, 135 are still under construction, and 37 are not yet started. She said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 82 of the completed evacuation centers were converted into health facilities to serve current needs.</p> <p>NEDA Assistant Secretary Pineda remarked that the LGUs should take charge of the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers, with concerned national government agencies such as the DPWH providing the standards and technical support. He added that the site and structural design of evacuation centers should be based on a multi-hazard risk assessment to ensure that the effects of the various types of hazards are mitigated.</p> <p>Furthermore, Pineda said the design of the evacuation centers must consider the needs of the vulnerable sectors particularly women, children, and persons with disability (PWDs), and ensure that such design allows safety protocols to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.</p>
Population and Family Relations	HB 7779	Rep. Nava	Providing for the permanent validity of the certificates of live birth, death, and marriage issued, signed, certified, and authenticated by the PSA, local civil registry (LCR) offices, and National Statistics Office (NSO)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Guimaras Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava M.D., approved the bills in principle and agreed to use HB 7779 as the draft substitute measure to the six bills.</p> <p>The Secretariat will draft the final version of the substitute bill which will be presented to the Committee in its next meeting for approval.</p> <p>Rep. Nava, author of HB 7779, Reps. Lorna Silverio (3rd District, Bulacan) and Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), co-authors of HB 3254, and Rep. Jose Enrique "Joel" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 5376, underscored the need to pass a law that provides for a lifetime validity of birth, death, and marriage certificates. They are against the existing practice of some government agencies which require an individual to submit the most recent copy of birth, marriage or death certificates or those not older than six months from issuance by the</p>
	HBs 3254, 4530 & 5847	Rep. Silverio, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, and Rep. Nieto	Prohibiting national government agencies from requiring the submission of a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) certified birth certificate issued within the past six months	
	HB 5376	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Strengthening the continuing validity of birth and death certificates issued by the PSA	
	HB 7139	Rep. Vargas	Providing for the lifetime validity of birth certificates issued by the PSA	

<p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations</p>				<p>PSA. This requirement, according to the authors, is burdensome on the part of the citizenry as it entails unnecessary and recurring expenses and processing time for their various applications. They added that the requirement is useless and illogical as these documents contain the same set of information even if copies are updated numerous times.</p> <p>Rep. Nava added that her bill proposes that in the absence of a PSA-issued certificates of live birth, death, and marriage, the submission of a certified true copy of the original document issued and signed by the local civil registrar and the former National Statistics Office shall be allowed. For this purpose, Rep. Nava said that her bill envisions the development of a civil registry database and virtual viewing facility that will link the database of the PSA and the local civil registry to allow easy verification of civil registry documents.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the PSA, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost).</p> <p>PSA representative Rodelio de la Fuente clarified that the PSA-issued documents have no expiration as the data written on them are permanent information of individuals.</p> <p>Commenting on HB 7779, DSWD Adoption Resource and Referral Division chief Irish Opeña recommended that the DSWD be exempted from the coverage of the proposed law and be allowed to require applicants for travel clearance of minors to present a recently-issued certificate of live birth to protect minors from human trafficking.</p> <p>Rep. Nava asked DSWD if allowing the DSWD to have access to the proposed viewing facility of the registry database addresses its concern with regard to the presentation of a recently-issued certificate of live birth of minors. Opena was amenable to the suggestion as long as the system will ensure the proper authentication and verification of the birth certificates.</p> <p>DFA-Office of Consular Affairs Passport Division Director Maria Alnee Gamble said that for applications for renewal or issuance of new passports, the DFA does not require the submission of birth certificates and other PSA documents that were issued “within the past six months.”</p>
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<p>Continuation... Population and Family Relations</p>				<p>However, Gamble said that the DFA requires the submission of authenticated copies of these documents and printed on PSA security paper for the purpose of ensuring authenticity of the documents.</p> <p>DOJ representative Charles Romulus Cambaliza suggested that certificates of live birth, marriage, and death issued by the government's foreign posts should also have a lifetime validity.</p> <p>Resource persons were requested to submit their written comments, suggestions, and other inputs for the Committee's consideration in drafting the final version of the proposed law.</p>
<p>Suffrage and Electoral Reforms</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 69, 578, 7063, 7411 & 7746</p>	<p>Rep. Barbers, Deputy Speaker Villanueva, Majority Leader Romualdez, and Rep. Crisologo</p>	<p>Strengthening the procedure for registration of voters and adopting a system of online registration, amending for the purpose certain sections of RA 8189, otherwise known as the Voter's Registration Act of 1996</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juliet Marie Ferrer (4th District, Negros Occidental), approved the Substitute Bill to the five bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Cyrille "Beng" Abueg-Zaldivar (2nd District, Palawan), Chair of the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to draft the substitute bill, presented the main features of the bill and the issues raised during the TWG deliberations.</p> <p>The provision in the bill seeking to amend Section 9 (Who May Vote) of RA 8189 was met with varied opinions from the Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Under the bill, a person will not be allowed to register without presenting a valid proof of residence, or any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax declaration or receipt of payment of real property tax or a certification from the landowner or lessor of residential unit, apartment, condominium, dormitory or similar dwelling units where he/she is residing at the time of registration; • A recent household utility bill under his/her name, which includes gas, electric, water, mobile or telephone, cable, internet or credit card bill; • An affidavit of at least two disinterested witnesses who are residents of the place where he/she proposes to vote, that he/she is a resident of the place; and • Other competent proof of residence acceptable to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) through an en banc resolution. <p>Members who objected to this provision, such as Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) and Rep. Francisco "Bingo" Matugas II (1st District, Surigao del Norte), said that it runs counter to the provision of the Constitution which states that "No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage."</p>

Continuation... Suffrage and Electoral Reforms				<p>On the other hand, other Members like Reps. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte), who is the author of HB 69, and Anthony Peter “Onyx” Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City), author of HB 7746, support this provision of the bill.</p> <p>The Members explained that the requirements are only meant to verify the identity and place of residence of the applicant. They also said that the bill intends to address the perennial problem of “flying voters” or those who are registered in multiple precincts and thus are able to vote from one precinct to another during an election.</p> <p>Likewise, COMELEC Deputy Executive Director Teopisto Elnas commented that the applicant, upon registration, may present any of the items enumerated in the bill for the purpose of proving that he/she meets the residency requirement.</p> <p>The voting on the approval of the Substitute Bill yielded a deadlock at 4-4, which was broken by Chairperson Ferrer who voted in favor of the Substitute Bill. She said that the proposed law is important especially at this time when the country is in the middle of a global health crisis, as she cited the bill’s provisions putting in place a system of online voter registration.</p>
	HB 2761	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Rationalizing the proceedings in and resolution of electoral protests	<p>The Committee deferred consideration of HB 2761 upon the request of the author so that the Members could attend today’s Session at 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>The COMELEC was asked to submit its position paper on the bill.</p>