



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 65  
November 25, 2020

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health	Substitute Bill to HB 6995	Rep. Tan (A.)	Providing for the stockpiling of strategic and critical drugs and medicines, vaccines, devices, and materials for public health emergencies, creating for the purpose the Health Procurement and Stockpiling Bureau (HPSB) under the Department of Health (DOH)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6995.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 6995, highlighted the importance of her bill in addressing the shortage of medical supplies not only for medical frontliners but for the general population. She said that this problem became evident during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the public to panic.</p> <p>According to Rep. Tan, her bill will ensure the readiness of the country in terms of having sufficient medical supplies and funding to respond to another pandemic if it happens in the future. The bill provides for the creation of the HPSB, which shall be the principal agency mandated to undertake a transparent, fair, proactive, and innovative procurement service for the DOH and to stockpile, conserve, and facilitate the release of adequate amounts of potentially life-saving pharmaceuticals, vaccines, devices, and materials in times of public health emergencies.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the proposed law were the DOH, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).</p> <p>Rep. Janette Garin (1<sup>st</sup> District, Iloilo) expressed concern on the redundancy of the functions of the proposed HPSB which are already being performed by existing offices within the DOH. She also said that purchasing large volumes of medicines and vaccines may not be feasible because their expiration dates have to be taken into account.</p> <p>Rep. Tan explained that the existing offices within the DOH undertaking the same functions will be subsumed under the proposed HPSB. She added that the procedure on the purchase of medicines and vaccines will be clearly outlined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the proposed law.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their additional comments and recommendations to the Substitute Bill.</p>
	HB 269	Rep. Aglipay	Institutionalizing a standard upgrade and modernization of regional hospitals to create and establish regional center of excellence for health care	The Committee approved in principle HBs 269 and 6857. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the substitute bill for the two bills.

Continuation... Health	HB 6857	Deputy Speaker Pichay	Establishing an apex hospital with 500 to 1,000-bed capacity in every region in the Philippines and providing funds therefor	<p>Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), author of HB 269, underscored the need to upgrade the regional hospitals in the country as some of them are not equipped to handle other diseases or ailments to the detriment of people in these areas. Improving the health facilities and services of regional hospitals will afford every Filipino a comprehensive and quality healthcare across the country.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur), author of HB 6857, said that it is the duty of the state to provide the best medical service to all Filipinos in every region of the country. He said that every region should have at least one apex or end referral hospital.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the proposed law were the DOH, DILG, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Philippine Hospitals Association (PHA), and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA).</p> <p>DOH Development Management Officer Roderick Napulan recommended that the proposed law be aligned with the Universal Health Care Law and the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan of the DOH.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary for External and Legislative Affairs Ricojudge Janvier Echiverri lauded the intention of the proposed law. However, he said that the capability of the local government units (LGUs) to maintain level three or apex hospitals should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>PHA President Jaime Almora recommended that the upgrading of hospitals should not be limited to increasing the number of hospital beds but to also improve the capability of hospitals in providing diagnostic, life-support, and advanced surgical interventions.</p> <p>A small group will be formed by the Committee to consult with the DOH, DILG, and the DBM on the issues raised during the meeting relative to the proposed law.</p>
	HB 2925	Rep. Castelo	Establishing a senior citizens hospital in Quezon City to be known as the Quezon City Senior Citizens Hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2925 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 3068, 3069, 4704, 4763, 5427, 5464, 5478, 7683 & 7684	Reps. Umali, Alvarez (P.), Benitez, Haresco, Balindong, and Tutor	Converting/increasing the bed capacity of hospitals in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the nine bills subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4252	Rep. Dalog	Establishing an emergency medical service and trauma center at the Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital in Abatan, Bauko, Mountain Province, changing its name from Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital to Luis Hora	The Committee approved HB 4252 subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Health			Memorial Regional Hospital and Trauma Center and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4731	Rep. Castelo	Establishing a district hospital in Quezon City to be known as the Batasan District Hospital, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4731 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 5204	Rep. Vargas	Providing for the construction of a super health center and lying-in clinic in Barangay Santa Monica, Quezon City and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5204 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 5565	Rep. Olivarez	Upgrading the service capacity of the Ospital ng Parañaque in the City of Parañaque, Metro Manila from first level to second level community hospital and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5565 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 3285	Rep. Adiong	Converting the Wao District Hospital in the Municipality of Wao, Province of Lanao del Sur into a level II hospital functioning as an annex of Amai Pakpak Medical Center to be known as the Amai Pakpak Medical Center Annex and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred the approval of HB 3285.  A separate meeting on the proposed measure will be conducted by the Committee to refine the bill.
Public Order and Safety	HBs 2247 & 3065	Reps. Cabochan and Nograles (J.J.)	Strengthening the Internal Affairs Service (IAS) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), amending for the purpose RA 8551, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Masbate), agreed to consolidate the three bills and come up with a substitute bill.  Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 2247, said that his bill seeks to strengthen and capacitate the IAS to make it more effective and efficient in fulfilling its role of promoting higher standards of integrity in the police force and enhancing the performance of PNP personnel and units.
	HB 7734	Rep. Barba	Strengthening the disciplinary mechanism in the PNP, amending for the purpose RA 8551	Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2nd District, Ilocos Norte), author of HB 7734, underscored the need to have a fair and independent IAS in the PNP which shall be the primary instrument in instilling discipline in the police force so that public trust will be earned, maintained and strengthened.  PNP IAS Inspector General Alfegar Triambulo informed the body that the position of the IAS with regard to the proposed law is to remain under the PNP but shall operate as an independent entity.  National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Chief of Legal Research and Legislation Division Nathaniel Dela Rosa expressed his support to the proposed law but recommended that the IAS be placed under the NAPOLCOM instead.  The NAPOLCOM is an attached agency of the DILG responsible for the administration and control of the PNP.  The authors said that they are amenable to place the IAS under the NAPOLCOM.
	HB 3527	Rep. Fariñas (R.C.)	Establishing the Philippine Legislative Police (PLP) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and study further HBs 3527 and 4914.

<p>Continuation... Public Order and Safety</p>	<p>HB 4914</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto</p>	<p>Ensuring the security of members, officials, employees, and guests of Congress and the safety of congressional premises, creating for the purpose the Congressional Police Force (CPF), appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Jorge Antonio Bustos (Party-List, PATROL) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>The Committee Chair informed the body that HB 3527 is a refiled bill patterned after HB 6208 authored by former Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress. He said that both bills (HB 3527 and HB 4914) seek to establish a police force within Congress, thus they should be consolidated.</p> <p>Rep. Rudys Caesar Fariñas I (Party-List, PROBINSYANO AKO), co-author of HB 3527, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Rep. Joy Myra Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City) sponsored HB 4914 on behalf of the author, Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto (6<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas). She said that the bill seeks to create the CPF to ensure the security of the Members and officials of Congress as well as to maintain peace and order within the congressional premises.</p> <p>Rep. Tambunting also explained that with its own police force, Congress will no longer have to rely on military and police officers to perform functions essential to legislation such as serving subpoenas, contempt orders, and warrants of arrest. She added that such dependence on executive agencies impairs the independence of the legislature and its capacity to establish its own security and operational protocols within its own premises.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the bills were the DILG and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p> <p>House of Representatives Secretary General Mark Llandro “Dong” Mendoza also expressed his support to the bill. He was a former House Member during the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Congresses.</p> <p>PNP National Operations Center Chief Danilo Macerin said that while he supports the intent of the proposed law, it may be open to challenges on constitutional grounds. He cited as basis Section 6, Article XVI of the Constitution, which provides that “The State shall establish and maintain one police force, which shall be national in scope and civilian in character, to be administered and controlled by a national police commission.”</p> <p>Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Assistant Chief Legal Counsel Lucio Yu Jr. said that the proposed salaries, retirement age and benefits, and insurance coverage of the proposed police force should be reviewed because they differ from the insurance program that the GSIS currently administers.</p>
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Continuation... Public Order and Safety				The GSIS and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) will be submitting their position papers on the bills to the Committee.
<b>Transportation</b>	HR 1367	Rep. Castelo	Urging the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to defer the implementation of cashless toll payments through the radio-frequency identification (RFID) system until January 1, 2021	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), adopted HR 1367 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento underscored the urgency of adopting HR 1367 considering that the DOTr has already issued a Department Order setting the date of the full implementation of the cashless toll payments through the RFID system on December 1. Rep. Sarmiento mentioned that Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia have their respective cashless toll payments in place, with the Philippines lagging behind in terms of this technology. However, he emphasized that these countries were well prepared before they fully implemented the cashless tollways payment system. Thus, he told the DOTr to ensure that all mechanisms are in place before fully implementing the system.</p> <p>Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), author of HR 1367, clarified that she fully supports the implementation of the cashless toll payment. However, she said that the date set is too close already and yet many are still not prepared for it. She believes that motorists need more time to have their vehicles registered in the RFID system, hence the need to extend the deadline to January 1, 2021.</p> <p>Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bulacan) supported the intent of the Resolution and asked the DOTr to use the one month period from December to January to adequately disseminate the information about the RFID system to the public.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary Mark Steven Pastor said that even before the pandemic, the DOTr already had plans to adopt a cashless mode of payment in tollways as it will improve travel time. He said that with a cashless payment system, the tollways can accommodate 900 vehicles per hour as compared to the manual payment which can only serve 300 vehicles per hour. The implementation of the cashless payment system was moved earlier than what was planned to prevent the tollways from being "vectors" of COVID-19 during this time of pandemic, he added.</p> <p>Pastor also clarified that the December deadline is not meant for the installation of RFID stickers but rather for the toll operators to comply with the directive that all their lanes shall be RFID-ready. He said that the installation of RFID sticker will be continued even after December 1.</p> <p>San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Tollways President Manuel Bonoan and Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) Chief Communication Officer Romulo Quimbo echoed</p>

Continuation... Transportation				<p>Pastor's statement that vehicles without RFIDs will still be allowed to enter the tollways even after the deadline. They will, however, be required to have RFIDs installed upon entry. A dedicated area along the expressways will be designated for the installation of RFID stickers.</p> <p>MPTC manages the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), Cavite Expressway (Cavitex), Harbour Link, and Cavite-Laguna (Cala) Expressway. On the other hand, the SMC Tollways manages the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEx), and STAR Tollway.</p> <p>Rep. Eric Olivarez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City) proposed to include in the Resolution a statement that RFIDs shall already be installed during the renewal of vehicle registration with the Land Transportation Office (LTO). In the same line, Rep. Pancho suggested that car dealers should already install RFID stickers in newly-purchased vehicles before they are released to the buyers.</p> <p>The Committee adopted these amendments to HR 1367.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1<sup>st</sup> District, Northern Samar) asked the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) if it has a policy that will require the interoperability in public transportation systems including fare collection, wherein a motorist or a commuter uses only one card in passing through different tollways or in using various modes of public transportation.</p> <p>TRB Executive Director Abraham Sales said that the agency has not yet discussed the matter with other government agencies concerned.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS) urged the toll operators to upgrade their toll payment systems to make them at par with other countries.</p> <p>Bonoan and Quimbo said that their respective companies are exerting efforts to upgrade their equipment and facilities but that it would take time to really achieve the level of toll system efficiency that other developed countries like Singapore have already attained.</p>
<b>Youth and Sports Development</b>	Substitute Bill to HBs 1226 & 5281	Reps. Pineda and Barba	Redefining the crime of game-fixing and prescribing stiffer penalties therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Manila), approved the Substitute Bill to the two measures, subject to style and amendment. Thereafter, the corresponding Committee Report was also approved.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Nieto expressed hope that the proposed law, which promotes a fair and competitive conduct of sports in the country, could be deliberated on in the Plenary the soonest possible time. He mentioned that there are two measures filed at the Senate which have</p>

<p>Continuation... Youth and Sports Development</p>				<p>a similar subject matter. Rep. Nieto said he talked to the Senate Committee on Sports Chair, Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, to facilitate the consideration of the counterpart bills.</p> <p>Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte), author of HB 5281, underscored the need to redefine game-fixing and provide stiffer penalties to ensure the sanctity of fair play and competitiveness in Philippine sports. He said that the aim is to promote growth and development in sports and protect the youth from unscrupulous persons. He added that the proposed law also calls for stiffer penalties if game-fixing was committed by a syndicate.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the bill made during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To insert a new section stating other offenses, such as abetting and aiding the commission of game-fixing, that may be penalized under the proposed law;</li> <li>• To insert a provision stating that minor student athletes who are found to have committed prohibited acts under the proposed law shall only be meted with administrative sanctions by their school as stated in the school’s handbook; and</li> <li>• To retain the penalties for public officials and juridical persons who committed acts prohibited under the proposed law.</li> </ul>
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ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Ethics and Privileges</b></p>	<p>Committee Case No. SC-2020-02, entitled: Mirafior O. Tado, complainant, versus Rep. Ruth Mariano Hernandez, respondent, for alleged falsification of public document and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), deferred action on the complaint until after the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) has issued its final judgement on the quo warranto case pending before it against Rep. Ruth Mariano Hernandez.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Committee Secretary was directed to prepare a letter-reply, to be signed by the Committee Chair, to the complainant stating this decision of the Committee.</p> <p>It was Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Camarines Sur) who mentioned that there is a pending petition for quo warranto filed against Rep. Hernandez in the HRET, citing as basis the letter of voluntary inhibition submitted to the Committee by Rep. Lawrence "Law" Fortun (1<sup>st</sup> District, Agusan del Norte), who is a member of the HRET. Rep. Bordado, therefore, recommended that the consideration of the Ethics case be deferred.</p> <p>San Jose del Monte City Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes agreed with Rep. Bordado on the deferment of the Committee’s action on the case pursuant to the last paragraph of Sec. 2, Rule I of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure, which states that: “If the subject matter of the complaint against a Member of the House is pending in a judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative body, the Committee shall defer action on said complaint until final judgment has been rendered by such body.”</p>

Continuation... Ethics and Privileges	Discussion of the Committee's request with the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct a webinar on "Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS)" for the Members of the House of Representatives and officials and employees	<p>The Committee agreed to collaborate with the Office of the Ombudsman for the conduct of a webinar on "Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS)" for the Members of the House of Representatives and officials and employees by next year.</p> <p>The Acting Committee Secretary was directed to coordinate with the Office of the Ombudsman through its National Integrity Center for the holding of this webinar.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	HB 3206	Rep. Olivarez	Mandating all tollway operators to use unified electronic toll collection access pass	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Bulacan), will deliberate further on HBs 3206 and 6110 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to draft a substitute bill for HBs 3206 and 6110.</p> <p>Rep. Eric Olivarez (1<sup>st</sup> District, Parañaque City), author of HB 3206, said that his bill seeks to mandate the use of unified radio-frequency identification (RFID) system to be used in all tollgates to allow a cashless and queue-less transaction in tollways. The system eradicates the inconvenience of having to purchase different RFID tags from each toll operator and have them reloaded from different locations. This, he said, will ensure smooth traffic situation in toll plazas, especially during rush hours and holidays.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry.</p> <p>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) Payments System Oversight Department head Raymond Estioko likewise expressed support for the bills but suggested not to limit the system to the use of RFID which might be overtaken by advancements in technology in the coming years. Instead, Estioko recommended that concerned government agencies be allowed to set the standards for the country's tollway systems.</p> <p>Representatives of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Tollways expressed their commitment towards establishing an interoperable tollway system.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 6119	Rep. Gatchalian	Establishing the national electronic toll collection system for all expressways in the country	

**DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES**

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>Update on the resumption of the motorcycle taxi pilot study</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), listened to the reports by concerned government agencies on the resumption of the pilot study on the use of motorcycle taxis as a mode of public transport.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante informed the Committee that the LTO has reactivated its technical working group tasked to conduct the pilot study with the aim of determining whether motorcycle taxis are safe for use as public transport. The result of the study will guide the Committee on what legislative measure to pursue to primarily benefit the public.</p> <p>Galvante reported that on November 19, the LTO advised the three participating motorcycle ride-hailing firms, Angkas, Move It, and JoyRide, that they could resume operations subject to compliance with the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF)-National Task Force COVID-19 guidelines. He disclosed that although Angkas and JoyRide still need to fully comply with the requirements of the IATF-NTF, the LTO already issued a provisional authority to allow these two groups to resume operations from November 24 to December 9. They were given two weeks to submit the accident insurance coverage for riders and passengers and to answer how they can validate the information provided in the health declaration form (HDF) to be submitted by their passengers. Galvante added that the LTO is not yet done with its inspection of the motorcycle taxis of Move It.</p> <p>Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City) asked if the IATF-NTF COVID-19 guidelines include temperature check for the drivers and passengers of the motorcycle taxis.</p> <p>National Action Plan Against COVID-19 Deputy Chief Implementer, Secretary Vince Dizon, said that as per the guidelines, the drivers are required to submit their body temperature and motorcycle sanitation report prior to starting a workday to the ride-hailing service company. They are also required to fill out an HDF through the DOTr accredited motorcycle taxi apps prior to taking rides. On the part of the passengers, only an HDF is required prior to booking rides.</p> <p>Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA) questioned the LTO about the information he received that it was requiring motorcycle taxi drivers to purchase thermal gun so that they will be allowed to operate. Galvante denied the information.</p> <p>Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party-List, MARINO) asked why the LTO gave only two weeks for the motorcycle taxis to operate. Galvante explained that the period is covered by a provisional authority and once the motorcycle taxis have fully complied with the requirements of the IATF-NTF, the three ride-hailing firms will be issued a certificate of compliance and can continue to participate in the pilot study.</p> <p>The Committee requested the submission of the IATF-NTF Memorandum Circular No. 3 s.2020 which contains the guidelines on minimum health and safety protocols to be observed by motorcycle taxis. Galvante was asked to submit to the Committee the requisites and safety protocols required from motorcycle taxi groups to be able to participate in the pilot study.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through [cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph](mailto:cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph) or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>