



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HB 307	Rep. Salceda	Establishing public schools in geographically isolated disadvantaged conflict-affected areas, and access roads leading to last mile public schools	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the consolidation of the three bills.</p> <p>Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Manila), author of HB 4978, said that his bill seeks to establish at least one basic education school in every indigenous people's community, thus also institutionalizing the Department of Education's (DepEd) Last Mile Schools Program. This, he said, will provide the indigenous people, especially the youth, the opportunity to engage in nation-building.</p> <p>Last mile schools are those with less than four classrooms, usually makeshift and nonstandard ones with no electricity and funds for repairs or construction of new projects in the last four years. These schools have a travel distance of more than one hour away from the center and accessible only by difficult terrain. (Source: DepEd website)</p>
	HBs 3072 & 4978	Reps. Sy-Alvarado and Nieto	Establishing basic education schools in every indigenous people's community in the country and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4226	Rep. Amatong	Establishing a science high school in the Municipality of Siocon, Province of Zamboanga Del Norte to be known as Siocon Science High School and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 4226.</p> <p>Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., sponsored HB 4226 in behalf of the author, Rep. Isagani Amatong (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Norte). He said that all the requirements for establishing a science high school have been complied with by the concerned parties.</p> <p>The DepEd expressed its support for the establishment of the Siocon Science High School.</p>
	HR 1057	Rep. Gato	Requesting President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, through the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines and the Department of Education (DepEd), to allow the conduct of the traditional "face-to-face" classes in the Province of Batanes which remains low risk and COVID-free	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1057.</p> <p>Rep. Gato, author of HR 1057, said that the Province of Batanes remains COVID-19 free due to the unique geographic location of the province which is located at the northernmost tip of the Philippines.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) Region II Development Management Officer Marcelo Dumlaog confirmed that it is safe to conduct face-to-face learning in the province and said that the required minimum health and safety standard will be implemented.</p> <p>Several Members expressed their support for the measure.</p>

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
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), chaired by Rep. Braeden John Biron (4<sup>th</sup> District, Iloilo), will deliberate further on the six bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Biron underscored the need to amend the Consumer Act of the Philippines, a law passed in 1992, to keep it abreast with the changing times.</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, Castelo, and Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto	Granting more protection to consumers, amending for the purpose RA 7394	<p>DTI Undersecretary Ruth Castelo expressed her support for the Committee's move to amend RA 7394 and apprised the TWG of the Department's proposed amendments to the law. According to Castelo, DTI's proposal took into consideration the provisions of HBs 2779, 4536, and 2902, authored by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto (6<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), and Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), respectively.</p> <p>Aside from protecting the consumers, Castelo said that the DTI also wants consumers to be aware of their responsibilities such as knowing and asserting their rights as well as being mindful of how their consumption affects those who are less advantaged. She also told the TWG that the DTI plans on engaging their foreign counterparts in order to protect Filipino consumers engaged in international transactions.</p>
	HB 6420	Deputy Speaker Estrella	Protecting and promoting public health through appropriate, transparent and easily comprehensible labelling of all processed and semi-processed food products containing free sugars	<p>Some of the key amendments to the law proposed by the DTI include the increase of penalties and fines for violations of the Act; inclusion of illegal activities such as "pyramiding" and "Ponzi schemes" in the list of prohibited acts; establishment of a "Timbangan ng Bayan" Center in all markets nationwide; inclusion of consumer education in the school curriculum; and giving authority to the implementing agencies to recall, confiscate, and by court order, destroy products that are found to be hazardous and injurious to consumers.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to adopt the DTI's proposed amendments but these will be presented to other agencies and stakeholders for their comments.</p> <p>In its next meeting, the TWG agreed to invite representatives from the following agencies and groups to present their comments on the proposed amendments to the Consumer Act of the Philippines: Departments of Education (DepEd), Agriculture (DA), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Union of Local Authorities, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and consumer organizations.</p>

**DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES**

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Basic Education and Culture</b></p>	<p>Update by the Department of Education (DepEd) on the status of its preparation for the opening of classes for School Year (SY) 2020-2021</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, listened to the report of the DepEd on the status of its preparation for the opening of classes for SY 2020-2021 on August 24.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary Tonisito Umali informed the Committee that there are 22.69 million enrollees in basic education for SY 2020-2021 of which 21.18 million are from public schools and 1.47 million are from private schools. He said that the preferred learning delivery modality of learners is modular distance learning. In this modality, learning is in the form of individualized instruction that allows learners to use self-learning modules (SLMs) in print or digital format/electronic copy, whichever is applicable in the context of the learner and other learning resources like the learner's materials, textbooks, activity sheets, study guides and other study materials. This learning delivery can be combined or complemented with online distance learning and television/radio-based instruction depending on the situation of the learners.</p> <p>Umali said that printed or digital modules will be delivered to the homes of the students or picked up by the parents at designated places within coordinated schedules. To speed up printing, the DepEd has decentralized the printing of the SLMs to its regional and division offices.</p> <p>Rep. Bayani Fernando (1<sup>st</sup> District, Marikina City) expressed concern that the DepEd will not be able to effectively implement these programs, considering that many students still lack the required computers and gadgets to undergo this kind of learning.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Misamis Occidental) and Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas) said that ensuring the continuity of education during the pandemic is really a challenge for the DepEd, thus it deserves to be given the necessary support to successfully implement these programs.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo and Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) advised the DepEd to be honest to admit if it is not yet ready to start classes this month so that appropriate decisions can be made to move or reschedule the start of classes. They said that the President has the power to set a different date for the start of the school year with the passage of RA 11480, which amended Section 3 of RA 7797 or the law lengthening the school calendar from 200 Days to not more than 220 class days.</p> <p>Umali said that the DepEd Central Office is monitoring the readiness of all the regions nationwide and that another dry run for the implementation of blended learning will be conducted on August 10.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party-List, MARINO) if teachers are required to go to school and work during the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), Umali answered in the negative.</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.hrep@gmail.com](mailto:cmss1.cad.hrep@gmail.com) or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>