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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Agriculture and Food	HBs 1495, 1771, 3253 & 4082	Rep. Tan (A.), Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Sy-Alvarado and Espino	Establishing a national program for the cacao industry and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further, using HB 1495 as the reference bill.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon) was designated as head of the TWG.</p>
	HB 5344	Rep. Lara	Developing the cacao industry in Cagayan Valley Region, creating for the purpose the Cacao Subsidy Fund and the Cacao Research and Development Center and appropriating funds therefor	Rep. Tan, author of HB 1495, said that her bill seeks to create a national program that will spearhead the education and training of cacao farmers; collect relevant researches, scientific studies and market strategies; extend technologies; create international linkages for the development and promotion of cacao; and make the Philippines a competitor in the world cacao market.
	HB 5585	Rep. Noel	Creating a Cacao Research and Development Center and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 6429	Rep. Bascug	Establishing a Cacao Research and Development Center in the Municipality of Prosperidad, Province of Agusan del Sur and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as well as stakeholders from the private sector manifested their support for the bills.</p> <p>DA Undersecretary Evelyn Laviña said that the country's local cacao producers have been participating in international events and the Philippines has been constantly recognized as one of the best producers of high quality variety of cacao for the past years. With the proposed law, Laviña said the country's cacao may reach its full potential in the global market, which will subsequently increase the farmers' income. She also recommended the establishment of regional research and development (R&D) centers in cacao/coffee-producing areas nationwide.</p> <p>BPI Director George Culaste said that the proposed law will institutionalize government efforts in the promotion and development of the cacao industry.</p> <p>DILG Undersecretary Ricojude Janvier Echeverri interposed no objection to the proposed law establishing a national program for the development of the cacao industry since the concerned local governments are already largely involved in efforts to promote this industry. With respect to Section 2 of HB 6429, Echeverri sought clarification on the specific amount or percentage which the local government of the Municipality of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur should set aside</p>

<p>Continuation... Agriculture and Food</p>				<p>out of its budget for the operationalization of the proposed Cacao Research and Development Center. He likewise asked if the local government has any other role besides its financial participation under this bill. Nevertheless, Echiverri suggested that HB 6429 be consolidated with the bills proposing for the creation of a development council for cacao and coffee industries. He also requested that the DILG be included in the crafting of the proposed law's implementing rules and regulations.</p> <p>On the other hand, National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff Director Nieva Natural said that while NEDA supports the intention of the bills, it objects to the creation of a new office dedicated solely for the development of the cacao industry. She explained that there are existing agencies undertaking this function hence the creation of another agency will only entail additional costs on the part of the government. Natural instead suggested the implementation of a more intensive R&D program and the improvement of post-harvest facilities as these will surely improve the yield and quality of cacao in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Enverga countered that although there are existing agencies mandated to promote and develop the cacao industry, they lack the budget to pursue extensive programs for the development of the industry and to address the challenges the industry is facing.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) called on concerned government agencies to formulate and implement a good plan for the cacao and coffee industries to fully realize their economic potentials.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) suggested that a representative from the academe be included as a member of the National Cacao Development Council which HB 1495 proposes to create. Rep. Sangcopan cited the valuable contribution the members of the academe can give in the area of research and development.</p> <p>Rep. Enverga requested all stakeholders to submit their position papers on the bills.</p>
	<p>HBs 1271, 3251 & 3598</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Sy-Alvarado, and Garin (S.)</p>	<p>Establishing a national program for the coffee industry, providing funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee directed the Secretariat to come up with a draft substitute bill taking into consideration the suggestions of the Members and the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 3598, explained that the creation of a National Coffee Board will help accelerate the development of the coffee industry and provide better assistance to the local coffee growers.</p> <p>Laviña informed the body that President Rodrigo Duterte approved the Philippine Coffee Industry</p>

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Dangerous Drugs	HBs 73 & 3233	Reps. Barbers and Sarmiento	Instituting the Magna Carta of benefits for the officers and personnel of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2 nd District, Surigao del Norte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the three bills and come up with a substitute bill.
	HB 2248	Rep. Cabochan	Granting hazard pay to eligible PDEA personnel	<p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), author of HB 3233, was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Barbers, who is also the author of HB 73, mentioned in his opening remarks and sponsorship speech some of the major accomplishments of PDEA for the period July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully conducted 127,379 anti-dangerous drug operations that led to the arrest of 182,061 drug offenders; • Dismantled 318 drug dens and clandestine laboratories; • Cleared 42,045 barangays from illegal drugs; • Seized controlled precursors and chemicals, laboratory equipment, and dangerous drugs with an estimated value of P32.42 billion and shabu worth about P24.41 billion; and • Confiscated 1,383.87 kilograms of shabu from March to June this year despite the lockdown. <p>These accomplishments of PDEA should not go unnoticed, according to Rep. Barbers. Thus, the bill he filed seeks to institutionalize benefits for the officers and personnel of the PDEA to improve their well-being and economic condition. Rep. Sarmiento agreed that it is high time to</p>

<p>Continuation... Dangerous Drugs</p>				<p>acknowledge the service to the country of the officers and personnel of PDEA.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 2248, said that the officers and personnel of PDEA deserve a hazard pay because of the risks associated with their occupation. He said that his bill proposes a hazard pay amounting to P2,000 per month during the duration of the hazardous duty of PDEA personnel.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the PDEA, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Health (DOH), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).</p> <p>Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Acting Chief Legal Counsel Lucio Yu said that the optional retirement age in the proposed bills are lower than the standard optional retirement age in other government agencies. He recommended that the proposed benefits be aligned with the optional retirement age as well as the survivorship benefits of other government agencies.</p> <p>Jocelyn dela Cruz of the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB) agreed with the suggestion of the GSIS. She also mentioned that PDEA personnel are already entitled to hazard pay since 2017.</p> <p>DOH's Program Manager of the Dangerous Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program Jose Bienvenido Leabres suggested to include in the consolidated bill a provision requiring an annual random drug testing of PDEA personnel.</p>
	<p>HBs 5405 & 5804</p>	<p>Reps. Baronda and Belmonte</p>	<p>Institutionalizing Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADACs) in provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the two bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur) was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Cabochan manifested that the explanatory notes attached to HBs 5405 and 5804 be made as the sponsorship speeches of the respective authors, Reps. Julianne Baronda (Iloilo City) and Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City).</p> <p>Both bills seek to institutionalize ADACs in all local government units (LGUs) that will spearhead the planning and ensure the smooth implementation of anti-drug abuse programs and services. The goal is to make these programs and services readily accessible to all Filipino individuals and families.</p>

Continuation... Dangerous Drugs				<p>Expressing their support for the bills were the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DILG, DOJ, DOH, NEDA, PNP, PDEA, NBI, and the DDB.</p> <p>The DDB and the DILG recommended that LGUs should allocate not less than 2% of their annual budget for the funding of the institutionalization of the ADACs while the DBM and the DOH recommended that a minimum amount be specified in the proposed law.</p> <p>Under HB 5405, funds for the institutionalization of the ADAC shall be included in the annual budget of the LGU, while under HB 5804, funding shall be included in the annual budget of the DILG under the General Appropriations Act.</p>
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bills to HBs 262; 1581; 1981; 3978; & 4488	Reps. Ramirez-Sato; Hataman; Siao; Dimaporo (A.); and Chungalao	Converting/establishing state colleges and universities in certain parts of the country	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved 31 Committee Reports on substitute bills to various bills pertaining to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion/establishment of state colleges and state universities; • Conversion/establishment of campuses in colleges and universities • Establishment of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and assessment centers; • Establishment of Indigenous Peoples Resource and Training Center and Forest Studies Development Center; and • Establishment of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Provincial Office
	Substitute Bills to HBs 2720; 6195; 6398; & 6572	Reps. Gonzaga; Suansing (E.); Rodriguez; and Natividad-Nagaño	Establishing campuses in certain parts of the country	
	Substitute Bill to HB 3659	Rep. Cuaresma	Establishing an Indigenous Peoples Resource and Training Center in the Nueva Vizcaya State University	
	Substitute Bills to HBs 3934; 4641; 5459; 5750; 5809; 5856; 5942; 5950; 5979; 5980; 5981; 5994; 6062; 6220; 6241; & 6296	Rep. Vargas; Deputy Speakers Marcoleta; Savellano; Reps. Bordado; Singson; Chungalao; Ong (J.); Barba; Sy-Alvarado; Amatong; Mercado; Garcia (V.); Nograles (J.F.F.); and Lara	Establishing training centers in various parts of the country	
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4421, 6403 & 6475	Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.) and Rep. Arroyo (J.M.)	Converting the extension campuses of the Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) located in various municipalities in the Province of Pampanga into regular campuses of the DHVSU	
	Substitute Bill to HB 4490	Rep. Fortun	Establishing Forest Studies and Development Center in the CARAGA State University	
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4686 & 5131	Reps. Teves (J.) and Sanchez	Converting the Cabugao School of Handicraft and Cottage Industries (CSHCI)-Cabugao Campus located in the Municipality of Bato, Catanduanes into a TESDA-supervised school to be	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education			known as the Catanduanes Polytechnic Skills Development Institute	
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5957, 5958 & 5959	Rep. Dujali	Establishing Davao del Norte State College campuses in certain parts of the Province of Davao del Norte	
	Substitute Bill to HB 6120	Rep. Chatto	Establishing the CHED Provincial Office in Bohol	
	HB 6502	Rep. Silverio	Converting the Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) in the Province of Bulacan into a state university to be known as the Bulacan State Agricultural University and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 6602 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Lorna Silverio (3rd District, Bulacan), author of HB 6502, said that converting BASC into a state university will have greater positive impact on the advancement of higher education and professional development of students in agriculture and allied disciplines. Rep. Silverio cited BASC's valuable role in molding agricultural professionals and experts who have contributed their knowledge and skills towards the advancement of Bulacan and the rest of Luzon.</p> <p>Expressing their support for HB 6502 were the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) and the BASC.</p> <p>CHED Executive Director Cinderella Filipina Benitez-Jaro said that BASC still needs to comply with certain requirements such as a feasibility study on the conversion of the BASC into a state university.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Go if BASC will be able to submit the documents required by CHED in 30 days, BASC President Jameson Tan answered in the affirmative.</p>
HB 6800	Rep. Daza	Establishing the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) satellite campuses in the municipalities of Allen, San Isidro, and Lavezares in Northern Samar, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 6800 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1st District, Northern Samar), author of HB 6800, said that his bill seeks to establish three UEP satellite campuses, one each in the municipalities of Allen, Victoria and Lavezares, to improve access to quality education in the province. He also manifested the amendment of his bill with the replacement of the Municipality of San Isidro by the Municipality of Victoria.</p> <p>The UEP said that it is still preparing the required feasibility study and will submit it to CHED at the soonest possible time.</p> <p>Expressing their support for HB 6800 were the CHED, UEP and the Mayors of the concerned municipalities.</p> <p>Lavezares Mayor Edito Saludaga lauded the intent of the bill and apprised the body that the lands for the site of the proposed satellite campuses are already available.</p>	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HBs 318, 1416 & 6368	Reps. Elago, Vargas, and Rodriguez	Providing for a national framework for students' rights and welfare	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out the issues raised and come up with a substitute bill.
	HR 115	Rep. Elago	Urging the Members of the House of Representatives to uphold the Philippine Declaration of Students' Rights	<p>Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Party-List, KABATAAN), author of HB 318 and HR 115, said that currently there are no laws that protect students from violations of their democratic rights. Her bill thus seeks to guarantee these rights such as the right to admission, the right to non-discrimination and quality education, the right to organize and establish student councils, the right to participate in policy-making processes, the right to exercise academic freedom, and the right to due process in disciplinary proceedings.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were resource persons from the CHED, National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), University of Southeastern Philippines, and the Rise for Education Alliance.</p> <p>Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) Managing Director Joseph Noel Estrada said that the provisions of the proposed law are already contained in several existing laws such as the Campus Journalism Act of 1991 and the Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act.</p> <p>Further, Estrada said that the bills give an impression that students' rights are superior to the rights of the other members of the academic community, including the academic freedom of schools, and will therefore weaken the administration of academic institutions. He proposed that a single comprehensive bill should be drafted encompassing the rights of all members of the academic community including the responsibilities of students and not just their rights.</p>
	HB 6851	Rep. Yap (E.)	Establishing TESDA training and assessment centers in the Municipalities of Atok, Bakun, Bokod, Buguias, Itogon, Kabayan, Kapangan, Kibungan, La Trinidad, Mankayan, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay, Province of Benguet, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee deferred the approval of HB 6851 to discuss with the author the proposed amendments to his bill coming from the resource persons present in the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Go asked TESDA on the feasibility of establishing a TESDA training center in each of the 13 municipalities in Benguet. He said that this could be costly and impractical especially if the municipalities are adjacent to each other. He recommended that two TESDA training centers may instead be established in Benguet that will cater to the municipalities nearest to these training centers.</p> <p>TESDA Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Director Manuel Wong concurred with the suggestion of the Chair to reduce the number of training centers in order to be cost effective. He said that one training center can serve a cluster of two or three adjacent municipalities.</p>
HB 6896	Rep. Mangudadatu	Establishing the Maguindanao State University (MASU), providing for the	The Committee deferred the approval of HB 6896 to give the author and other stakeholders the	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education			purpose the consolidation of the Mindanao State University (MSU)-Maguindanao campus, the Mindanao State University-Graduate School Maguindanao campus, the UPI Agricultural School, and the University of Southern Mindanao (USM)-Buluan extension campus, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>opportunity to state their views and suggestions on the bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>CHED's Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance OIC-Chief Rita Sescar recommended that instead of creating another state university, the government should provide additional funding support to the existing state universities to enable them to strengthen their capacity-building program and establish more campuses within the province which would be less costly than creating a new state university.</p> <p>Sescar also said that consultations with the respective governing boards of the affected schools must be done to know how this proposal will affect them. If the Committee is inclined to approve the proposed measure, she recommended that the school should start as a state college and not as a state university right away, and comply with the requirements for the establishment of a state college.</p> <p>MSU-Maguindanao Chancellor Bai Soraya Sinsuat expressed her objection to the bill. She said that the MSU-Maguindanao wishes to remain part of the MSU system and that the proposed consolidation will downgrade the school's status as a national university which would be disadvantageous to its students.</p> <p>The MSU System also expressed its objection to the bill as the MSU-Maguindanao campus is part of the service area of the MSU System particularly serving the educational requirements of Muslim communities.</p>
	HB 6397	Rep. Rodriguez	Converting the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) in Tacloban into the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) Visayas extension campus, providing funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to lay on the table HB 6397.</p> <p>Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 6397, informed the body that he no longer wishes to push through with his bill upon knowing that the NMP is objecting to this proposal.</p> <p>NMP Executive Director Joel Maglunsod said that the NMP plans to expand by establishing satellite campuses in Cebu and other areas in the Visayas.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1188 & 5612	Deputy Speaker Romero and Rep. Yap (V.)	Amending RA 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (to address data privacy challenges and other cross-border data processing concerns, among others)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, approved the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1188 and 5612.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to elevate to the mother Committee the deliberation of the contentious provisions of the bill, among which are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1, specifically on the

<p>Continuation... Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>definition and coverage of the sensitive personal information of an individual's financial data – whether or not to accept the proposed definition provided by the Philippine Life Insurance Association, Inc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12 (Criteria for Lawful Processing of Personal Information) – whether to retain, lower or increase the current age of 15 years and below that will require parental consent in processing information pertaining to a child; and • Section 20 (Security of Personal Information) – whether or not to amend the provision which states that within 72 hours, the personal information controller of an institution shall notify the National Privacy Commission (NPC) that a personal data breach involving sensitive personal information or other information that may be used to enable identity fraud occurred. <p>Likewise, the TWG agreed on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPC shall have the primary jurisdiction over cases involving violation of the Data Privacy Law, but without prejudice to the right of an individual to seek recourse from the courts; and • A transitory provision will be included in the proposed law to provide ample time for concerned institutions to comply with the law. <p>On the amount of fines that will be imposed against violators of the proposed law, the resource persons agreed to discuss among themselves the appropriate language for this provision, for submission to the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco requested all the stakeholders to submit their proposed amendments for consideration in the finalization of the substitute bill.</p>
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