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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 5020	Speaker Alvarez	Abolishing the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), creating for the purpose the Board of Energy as an attached agency of the Department of Energy (DOE)	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Mark Aeron Sambar (Party-List, PBA) for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) for the Committee on Energy, agreed to consolidate the three bills, using HB 7104 as the working draft.</p> <p>ERC Chair Agnes Devanadera answered the queries of Rep. Uybarreta regarding the ERC's processing of various applications of electric power industry players. She also informed the joint TWG that with regard to the application for adjusting electricity rates, the ERC conducts consultation with the consumers to get their views on the matter.</p> <p>Rep. Uybarreta underscored the importance of streamlining the existing processes and procedures of the ERC to allow for a better delivery of services to the electric consumers. He also suggested granting fiscal autonomy to the ERC to be able to grant competitive salaries to its employees, as an incentive for better performance.</p> <p>Asked about the staff complement of ERC, Devanadera answered that there are 381 plantilla positions, out of which 230 are filled up and the rest are vacant. The ERC was requested to submit a list of its plantilla positions and the corresponding job description.</p> <p>Resource persons from the ERC, Department of Energy (DOE) National Power Corporation (NPC), National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Manila Electric Company (Meralco), and Private Electric Power Operators Association Inc. (PEPOA) all expressed support for the strengthening of the ERC and streamlining of its procedures to better serve the public.</p> <p>NEA Deputy Administrator Rossan Rosero-Lee and PEPOA President Ranulfo Ocampo recommended that a representative from the electric consumers group be given a seat in the ERC Board.</p>
	HB 5961	Rep. Gatchalian	Enhancing the governance structure of the ERC	
	HB 7104	Rep. Velasco	Streamlining the regulatory commission on energy, renaming the ERC into the Philippine Power Regulatory Commission, amending for the purpose RA 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, appropriating funds therefor	

Public Order and Safety jt. w/ National Defense and Security (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 7141 & 5507	Rep. Espino	Amending RA 9372, otherwise known as the "Human Security Act of 2007" (by deleting provisions that are redundant with existing laws and are anti-law enforcement, among other amendments)	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), chaired by Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, Vice Chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security, will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the TWG focused its discussion on the proposed amendments to Section 3 (Terrorism) and Section 4 (Conspiracy to Commit Terrorism) of the Human Security Act.</p> <p>Former University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law Dean Pacifico Agabin opined that the bill suffers from constitutional flaws and some of its provisions are ambiguous which could lead to violation of due process. Likewise, Bishop Emergencio Padillo of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) expressed his objections to some provisions of the bill that could make the churches' community workers vulnerable.</p> <p>On the other hand, Atty. Abigail dela Rosa, mediator-arbiter of the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), conveyed her office's support for the bill, adding that the government's fight against terrorism is beneficial not only to local workers but also to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).</p> <p>Answering the query of former House Member Neri Colmenares of Bayan Muna Party-List on the rationale for amending the Human Security Act, Florentino Manalastas Jr., officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Anti-Terrorism Council-Project Management Center (ATC-PMC), Office of the President (OP), said that it is about time that the 10-year old law be amended in order to be more responsive to new and changing threats of terrorism.</p> <p>The ATC-PMC will submit its own version of the proposed amendments to Section 4, which will be renumbered into Section 5, including several new subsections pertaining to the imposition of penalties against any person proposing or inciting to commit the crime of terrorism, engaging in recruitment for terrorist organizations or groups, providing material support to terrorists, and making a statement which tends to encourage terroristic acts, among others.</p>
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