

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Second Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. II No. 74
January 25, 2018

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3569, 5117, 5888 & 6133	Reps. Acosta, Mercado, and Dy	Reclassifying/declaring certain parcels of land of the public domain in certain parts of the country as alienable and disposable lands	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Raul Terso, discussed the technical description (TD) of the seven bills.
	HB 3727	Rep. Bravo	Establishing a mode of acquisition and disposition for agricultural lands within Ticao and Burias Islands, Province of Masbate declared as special ecotourism zones or tourism enterprises zones, providing environmental safeguards therefor	The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) will review and evaluate the TD of the lands covered by the seven bills and will submit the result of its review next week.
	HBs 1361 & 2162	Reps. Paduano and Yap (M.)	Declaring a parcel of land of the public domain as an agricultural land for town site purpose in the Municipality of Salvador Benedicto, Province of Negros Occidental	
	HB 2317	Rep. Dalog	Excluding from the operation of Proclamation No. 217, series of 1929, otherwise known as the Central Cordillera Forest Reserve, a certain portion of land embraced therein and declare the same alienable and disposable under Section 4 of RA 10023 (Residential Free Patent Act) dated March 9, 2010, in favor of the Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital located in Abatan, Bauko, Mountain Province for hospital purposes	The TWG deferred its deliberation on HB 2317 pending the revalidation of the TD of the subject area by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR).
	HB 4385	Rep. Mangaoang	Reclassifying a certain parcel of land in Barangay Talalang in the Municipality of Balbalan, Province of Kalinga as a mineral land open for declaration as a people's small-scale mining area, amending for the purpose RA 6463	The TWG agreed to get the position of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) on HB 4385.
	HB 6046	Rep. Villanueva	Reclassifying/declaring certain parcels of land of the public domain located in the different Barangays of Anupul, San Nicolas, San Roque and Lourdes, all in the Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac from unclassified lands into alienable and disposable lands.	The TWG agreed to deliberate further on HB 6046. The small group created by the TWG to discuss the issues and concerns of parties that will be affected by the bill is expected to submit its position paper anytime soon. The group is composed of government offices such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), DENR Region III, and Sangguniang Bayan of Bamban, Tarlac.

Public Order and Safety (Technical Working Group)	HB 2728	Rep. Alejano	Ordaining the modernization of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD), will deliberate further on HB 2728 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Paduano cited the need to modernize the BFP in order to make it more effective in its role as “rescuers” in times of calamities.</p> <p>BFP Chief Leonard Bañago explained that modernizing the Bureau would entail upgrading and acquisition of modern facilities and equipment, purchase of new fire trucks, and additional manpower. Additional funds are therefore necessary, he stressed. Currently, Bañago said that due to lack of funds, the Bureau still uses age-old fire trucks which can no longer respond effectively during emergency situations and urgently need to be replaced.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 5 of the bill which allocates P8 billion for the Fire Protection Modernization Program of the BFP, Assistant Director Evelyn Peralta of the Budget and Management Bureau (BMB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), said that the DBM has already allocated P800 million and P1 billion for 2017 and 2018, respectively, for the acquisition and improvement of its facilities and equipment.</p> <p>With regard to the grant of scholarship to dependents of BFP personnel as espoused in the bill, Peralta explained that the same benefit is already provided for under RA 6963.</p> <p>RA 6963 grants special financial assistance and benefits to the family or beneficiary of any police or military personnel or fireman killed or permanently incapacitated while in the performance of his duty or by reason of his office or position.</p> <p>The BFP was requested to submit a detailed report of its expenditures for 2016 and 2017 relative to the Bureau’s Modernization Program per region.</p>
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