

# Committee Daily Bulletin



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	Substitute Bill to HBs 182, 812, 970, 1220, 1527, 2388, 2540, 3040 & 5406	Reps. Olivarez, Batocabe, Romualdez, Umali, Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Abad, Tambunting, and Roque (H.)	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation, enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, will again submit the substitute bill to the Committee on Ways and Means for concurrence after it approved the amendment to Section 20 (Fiscal Incentives) of the bill, subject to style.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to adopt and include in Section 20 the incentives granted under Article 39 (Incentives to Registered Enterprises) of Executive Order 226 (Omnibus Investments Code of 1987), and the zero-percent value-added tax (VAT) on energy-efficient projects.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdo explained that the Committee on Ways and Means has referred the bill back to the Committee on Energy to harmonize Section 20 with the tax incentive provisions of the proposed Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-Quality Opportunities or TRABAH0 Law, which the Committee on Ways and Means has recently approved.</p> <p>Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Inc. (PE2) President Alexander Ablaza suggested extending the number of years that firms could enjoy fiscal incentives to 15 years instead of six years for pioneer firms and four years for non-pioneer firms, as prescribed under EO 226.</p> <p>Reps. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) and Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE) remarked that fiscal incentives should be granted for a short period only to discourage businesses from becoming dependent on incentives to be competitive, and to avoid a huge strain on government finances.</p> <p>Ablaza was requested to submit PE2's position paper on the bill as well as studies and data supporting his proposal to allow firms to enjoy fiscal incentives for a longer period of 15 years.</p>
Games and Amusements	HB 6983	Rep. Bernos	Strengthening the role of the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) in the operation of cockfighting in the Philippines, amending the Cockfighting Law of 1974	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Gus Tambunting (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Parañaque City), will deliberate further on HB 6983 in its next meeting.</p> <p>GAB Legal Division Chief Ermar Benitez expressed support for the bill. However, he said the bill must conform to the recommendations of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) as contained in its position paper.</p> <p>The OSG recommends, among others, to include a proviso in the bill clarifying whether a studio cockpit for livestreaming is counted in the proposed maximum number</p>

Continuation... Games and Amusements				<p>of cockpits allowed per municipality or city, and a proviso clarifying whether the local or the national government is entitled to collect the 3% share from gate receipts and center bets for cockfights. A penalty provision for violators was also suggested to be included in the bill.</p> <p>Replying to the queries of lawmakers, GAB Chair Abraham Kahlil Mitra explained that the now defunct Game Fowl Commission (GFC) used to be in-charge of issuing licenses to cockpits and derbies and charging a fee of P300.00 per fight. Mitra said that since his appointment as GAB chair, he said he made it clear that such fees should no longer be collected.</p> <p>However, according to Mitra, he learned that said fees are purportedly still being collected and are remitted to the municipalities and barangays, but none to the national government.</p>
	HR 598	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the proliferation of "online sabong"	<p>The Committee terminated its inquiry relative to HR 598 and as a consequence, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) that will come up with a bill regulating online or electronic <i>sabong</i> (e-sabong) in the country.</p> <p>Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL) was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) recommended that the regulation of online <i>sabong</i> should also cover international derbies and live streaming of cockfights which involve millions of pesos in bets. He talked of a huge potential source of revenues for the government if these gaming activities are properly taxed, as compared to only P300.00 per local cockfight collected by the GAB.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) suggested that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) be mandated to oversee and regulate <i>e-sabong</i> in the country.</p> <p>Cockpit operator Ricardo Magtuto of the Camarines Sur Sports Arena admitted that his establishment shows live video streaming of cockfights from other localities such as Metro Manila, but claimed that these videos are only shown within the confines of the cockpit.</p> <p>Magtuto believes that the concerned local government unit (LGU) should be the regulatory authority over <i>e-sabong</i> being held within its jurisdiction, just like its power to issue a license to operate local cockpits.</p> <p>On the other hand, Rep. Batocabe cited the need to further empower GAB to effectively enforce <i>e-sabong</i> regulations and be able to flex its muscles even if the violation is committed by the LGU itself.</p> <p>The Committee urged all entities engaged in <i>e-sabong</i> to temporarily cease their operations until the matter of its regulation has been resolved and put in place.</p>