

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	Substitute Bill to HBs 4498 & 5540	Reps. Rodriguez (M.) and Romero	Further promoting entrepreneurship by strengthening, empowering and enhancing the financing programs for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), amending for the purpose RA 6977, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dennis Laogan (Party-List, KABUHAYAN), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 7918 & 8129	Deputy Speaker Yap and Rep. Unabia	Further amending RA 9501, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for MSMEs (by requiring private malls and supermarkets to allocate a certain portion of their selling area to registered and qualified MSMEs to display their products for sale)	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune the bills.</p> <p>Director Jerry Clavesillas of the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Business Enterprises Development (DTI-BMSMED) expressed support for the proposed law, adding that the DTI has an existing partnership with owners of supermarkets and malls on the allocation of a portion of their business space for MSMEs. Aside from private malls and supermarkets, Clavesillas suggested that airports should also be covered under the proposed law.</p> <p>Rodel Oracion, project assistant at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) remarked that big malls and supermarkets may not be amenable to the proposed allotment of at least five percent (HB 7918) or 10% (HB 8129) of their total selling area because the space may be too big for them to accommodate the MSMEs for free.</p> <p>To address this concern, the Committee adopted the suggestion of Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy (Party-List, BAGONG HENERASYON) determine the selling area that would be allocated for free by mall and supermarket owners to MSMEs not by percentages but by a range of floor areas depending on the size of the establishment.</p> <p>Steven Cua, president of the Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, also expressed support for the bills, explaining that some of their members already allocate a portion of their business space for MSMEs.</p>

Continuation... Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development				The Committee requested all stakeholders to submit their position paper on the proposed law.
	HB 7943	Rep. Vargas	Expanding the coverage of micro enterprises as beneficiaries under RA 6977, as amended	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 7943.</p> <p>Representatives from the DTI, DOST, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Finance (DOF), Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT) preferred to retain the existing definition of MSMEs, particularly the maximum asset size of a micro enterprise.</p> <p>Under HB 7943, the value of the total assets of a micro enterprise shall not be more than P7.5 million (from the current limit of P3 million). For small enterprises and medium enterprises, their total assets shall remain to be not more than P15 million and P100 million, respectively.</p> <p>SB Corp. OIC-Executive Vice President Melvin Abanto opined that a new law is not necessary to be able to change the definition of MSMEs since it can be done administratively, as provided for under RA 6977.</p> <p>On the other hand, the national president of Ka-Entrep Micro and Small Entrepreneurs Organization of the Philippines, Joseph de Guzman, expressed support for the proposed law, adding that expanding the coverage of MSMEs is a welcome development for the sector.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Justice	Consolidated complaints for impeachment against seven Associate Justices of the Supreme Court (SC) filed by Reps. Edcel Lagman, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., and Gary Alejano	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Doy Leachon (1<sup>st</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), adopted the resolution dismissing the consolidated complaints for impeachment against seven SC associate justices, and approved the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) noted that during the Committee's previous meeting, Rep. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay) requested to be allowed to file a motion for reconsideration within 10 days.</p> <p>Although the filing of a motion for reconsideration is not allowed under the Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings, Rep. Leachon said that Rep. Lagman was advised that he may file a written manifestation for inclusion in the Committee Report. However, as of to date, no written manifestation from Rep. Lagman was received by the Committee. Rep. Marcoleta asked that such fact be included in the Committee Report.</p>

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health jt. w/ Trade and Industry (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 884, 885, 917, 925, 4129, 4713, 5204 & 6462 and HR 973	Rep. Tan (A.); former Rep. Roque (H.), Reps. Abaya, Castelo, Fortun, Biazon, Silverio, and Bravo (A.)	Amending RA 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (by creating the Inter-Agency Committee Tobacco Control; increasing to 21 years old the minimum age in the sale of tobacco products; and prohibiting smoking in all public places except in designated smoking areas, among others)	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), Vice Chair of the Committee on Health, and Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Vice Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, terminated its deliberations on the draft substitute bill.</p> <p>The final version of the bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Representatives from the Departments of Health (DOH), Finance (DOF), Justice (DOJ), and Trade and Industry (DTI), as well as from private organizations, such as the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Health Justice Philippines (HJP), Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), and New Vois Association of the Philippines (NVAP) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>The TWG members agreed to the proposal to increase to 21 years old the legal age of persons who can use, purchase or sell cigarettes and tobacco products on the premise that at the age of 21, one can better discern the negative effects of cigarette smoking to one's health.</p> <p>Likewise, the TWG agreed to the proposed creation of an Inter-Agency Committee-Tobacco (IAC-Tobacco), which shall have the exclusive power to administer and implement the provisions of the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Romualdo suggested the inclusion of the heads of the Leagues of Provinces, Cities, and Barangays in the composition of the IAC-Tobacco.</p> <p>With regard to regulating tobacco advertisements, Baguio City Rep. Mark Go said that tobacco manufacturers might just circumvent the proposed law by advertising tobacco products through non-conventional methods such as the use of social media.</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill within a week for the Joint Committee's reference.</p>