

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 539, 1605, 3529, 4955 & 7681	Reps. Yap (V.), Baguilat, Tan (A.), Salo, and Alejano	Institutionalizing an emergency medical services system (EMSS), creating for the purpose the National EMSS Council, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 <sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.
	HB 8183	Rep. Tan (A.)	Amending RA 10152 or the Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011 (by limiting the power of the Secretary of Health to determine other types of vaccine-preventable diseases)	<p>The Committee approved HB 8183 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 8183, said that it proposes to limit the power of the Secretary of Health to determine other types of vaccine-preventable diseases by requiring the recommendation of the Formulary Executive Council (FEC) and the presentation of such proposal in a joint public hearing of the Committee on Health and Demography of the Senate and the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Based on the explanatory note attached to the bill, the FEC is a panel of Filipino experts tasked to identify the diseases for which medicines need to be included in the formulary based on a continuing review of disease statistics from public and private hospitals and health facilities.</p>
	HB 3433	Rep. Robes	Establishing a mental health clinic in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 3433 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 1515, 5272, 7285, 7297, 7301 & 7962	Reps. Adiong, Sarmiento (E.), Sacdalan, Belmonte (F.), Mariño, and Gasataya	Increasing the bed capacity of certain hospitals in the country, upgrading their services and facilities and professional healthcare, authorizing the increase of their medical personnel and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the six bills subject to style and amendment.
	HB 6713	Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.)	Converting the Lanao del Norte Provincial Hospital located in the Municipality of Baroy, Lanao del Norte into a regional medical center to be known as the Lanao del Norte Regional Medical Center and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 6713 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 7358	Rep. Lanete	Mandating the establishment of a district hospital in Dimasalang, Masbate, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 7358 subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Health	HB 7893	Rep. Garcia (J.)	Expanding and upgrading the services of the Mariveles Mental Hospital in Mariveles, Bataan, to include the operation of a Level 1 General Ward with 100 bed capacity, renaming the same as Mariveles Health and Wellness Institute and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 7893 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 7950	Rep. Estrella	Empowering the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Complementary Health Care by vesting upon it regulatory powers, providing it with augmented human resources and upgraded equipment, establishing testing laboratories and field offices, amending certain Sections of RA 8423, otherwise known as the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 7950.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas).</p> <p>Rep. Conrado Estrella III (Party-List, ABONO), author of HB 7950, said that the measure aims to provide the people with a wider range of quality, safe, effective and cost efficient health products and services. Likewise, it seeks to strengthen the administrative and technical capacity of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) by granting it the necessary police and regulatory powers. PITAHC is also being proposed to be renamed as the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Complementary Health Care.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño requested the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) and PITAHC to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Justice	HBs 2299, 4841, 4914, 5055, 5247, 5624, 6510 & 6751	Reps. Yap (M.) Tan (A.), Garin, Loyola, Gasataya, Dimaporo (M.K.), Deputy Speaker Escudero, and Rep. Amatong	Creating additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in certain parts of the country, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Doy Leachon (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Oriental Mindoro), approved the eight bills with amendments.
	HBs 6679, 8182 & 8192	Reps. Umali, Leachon, and Zubiri	Granting Philippine citizenship to Hans Guenter Schoof, Margarita Melian Ortigas, and Kitson Soriano Kho, respectively	The Committee approved the three bills.
	HB 8012	Rep. Lagman	Providing that the seasonable filing of a motion for reconsideration and/or appeal shall stay the execution of the challenged order or decision	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8012 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1<sup>st</sup> District, Albay), author of HB 8012, said that the purpose of the bill is to unequivocally provide that a seasonable filing of a motion for reconsideration, appeal or petition for review shall stay the execution of the challenged order or decision, until the rendition of a final judgment affirming the said order or decision.</p> <p>As stated in the Explanatory Note attached to the bill, due process includes the opportunity to be heard not only in the first instance but also on motion for reconsideration or appeal. This right will be rendered insignificant if the</p>

Continuation... Justice				<p>challenged order or decision is deemed executory pending the resolution of a motion for reconsideration or final adjudication of the appeal.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Leachon on why the Office of the Ombudsman objects to the bill, Assistant Ombudsman for Legal Affairs Asryman Rafanan replied that the Office has its own rule-making power, as such, it can simply amend or modify its rules of procedure to address the issue at hand, without need of a new legislation.</p> <p>The Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Justice (DOJ), and Civil Service Commission (CSC) were requested to submit their official position papers on the bill.</p> <p>One of the provisions of the bill seek to repeal, in particular, Section 7 of Rule III of the Rules of Procedure of the Office of the Ombudsman under Administrative Order No. 07 dated 10 April 1990, as amended; and Section 65 of Rule 12 of the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service dated 08 November 2011.</p>
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 422 & 7994	Reps. Quimbo and Suansing (E.)	Establishing the fiscal regime for mining industry	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on the substitute bill in another meeting.</p> <p>The substitute bill provides, among others, that all mining contractors operating within or outside mineral reservations shall pay a royalty tax equivalent to five percent of the market value of the gross output of the mineral products. For mining contractors operating outside mineral reservations, the payment of royalty tax will be implemented gradually for five years until the tax rate reaches five percent on the fifth year. Likewise, the bill imposes additional government share to be paid by mining contractors when the basic government share is less than 50% of the net mining revenue.</p> <p>Much of the discussions in today's meeting focused on the issue of whether a uniform rate for the royalty tax should be imposed on all mining activities or the tax rates should be differentiated based on whether the mining operations are within or outside mineral reservation areas, and based on profit margins and nature of the mining activity.</p> <p>Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) said that the imposition of the five percent royalty tax on all mining operations may adversely affect the mining industry, considering that it is already presently saddled with various taxes, charges, fees, and other impositions.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> District, Surigao del Sur) favors the proposal to impose the royalty tax on all mining companies, without distinction, but proposes that the rate be reduced to three percent.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing said that the Department of Finance (DOF) and the mining industry already met to arrive at a “win-win” solution to the issues relating to the tax measures proposed in the bill.</p> <p>Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP) Chair Gerard Brimo informed the Committee that while the DOF and the representatives of the mining industry already met on the matter, no agreements were reached yet between the two parties.</p> <p>The DOF was requested to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal opinion on the issue of equitable taxation as a justification for imposing a uniform royalty tax rate on all mining operations;</li> <li>• Simulation of the impact of the royalty tax based on rates ranging from 1% to 5% on gross income and based on a range of profit margins.</li> </ul>
HBs 4839 & 8286	Deputy Speaker Garin and Rep. Suansing (H.)	Amending Sections 141, 142 and 143 of RA 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, increasing and restructuring the excise tax rates on alcohol products		<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>At the outset, the Chair emphasized that the proposed law aims to restructure the excise tax rates on alcohol thereby increasing government revenues without hampering the growth of the liquor industry.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat), author of HB 8286, stressed that his bill seeks to increase the excise tax on alcohol products and the indexation rate to 10% to account for inflation and income.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 4839, underscored the need to restructure the tax on alcohol products considering that only 30% of the total “sin tax” collection was generated from them, while 70% came from cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Deputy Speaker added that both products pose health risks which the government intends to address through higher taxes.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Pimentel, DOF Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan said that the proposed restructuring of excise tax on alcohol products is included in the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>(TRAIN) 2 Plus of the administration. However, Habitan said that the two House bills propose to change the tax base from “proof per liter” (which takes into account the alcohol content of the alcohol product) to “per liter” or volume of the alcohol product, which is not carried in the TRAIN 2 Plus.</p> <p>Distilled Spirits Association of the Philippines president Olivia Limpe-Aw objects to the use of “per liter” as the unit of measure in the computation of the excise tax considering the wide range of liquor products with different alcohol levels. She also said that it will drastically increase the retail prices of liquor by about 30%, which will affect mostly the low-income earners who comprise over 91% of the industry’s consumers.</p> <p>Representatives from the alcohol industry also clamor for a more equitable taxation, citing the lower taxes on wine and other imported alcohol products.</p> <p>The stakeholders were requested to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law to be considered during the TWG meetings.</p>
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