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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	HB 6461	Rep. Batocabe	Exempting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement in the renewal of their license under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), amending for the purpose RA 10912, otherwise known as the CPD Act of 2016	<p>The Committee, chaired by Antique Rep. Paolo Javier, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out the issues raised relative to the measures and to come up with a substitute bill incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>Reps. Antonio Tinio (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS) and Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), authors of HB 7171, stated that the mandatory requirement to take up CPD courses prior to the renewal of licenses is a burden to the professionals, especially those who are working abroad.</p> <p>The same sentiment was expressed by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2nd District, Quezon City), co-author of HR 1610.</p> <p>On the other hand, former PRC Chairperson Teresita Manzala recommended that the CPD law should just be amended by exempting Filipino professionals working abroad since the practice of their profession is governed by the laws and regulations of their host countries. She further stated that the repeal of the CPD law would undermine the competencies of Filipino professionals as the law supports the Philippine Qualifications Framework under Executive Order No. 83, series 2012.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to thresh out the issues raised relative to the bill and to come up with a substitute bill that will incorporate the recommendations of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).</p> <p>Bacolod City Rep. Greg Gasataya, author of HB 7961, manifested that the explanatory note attached to his bill be considered as his sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Region VI Assistant Director Victor de Garcia Jr. expressed his objection to the bill. Garcia argued that the proposed conversion is not necessary as there are already state colleges in the area, particularly the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College (CHMSC) in Bacolod City, and will only displace the high school students of SNHS.</p>
	HB 7171	Rep. Tinio	Repealing RA 10912	
	HB 8296	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Enhancing the CPD of Filipino workers and professionals, amending for the purpose RA 10912	
	HR 1610	Rep. Bertiz	Inquiry into the status of implementation of RA 10912	
	HB 7961	Rep. Gasataya	Converting the Sum-ag National High School (SNHS) in the City of Bacolod, Province of Negros Occidental into a state college to be known as the Sum-ag State College (SSC) and appropriating funds therefor	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>CHED's Office of Institutional Quality Assurance and Governance (OIQAG) Director Joselito Alisuag also objects to the proposed conversion as the school still has to comply with the CHED's requirements for the establishment of a state college. The requirements include a feasibility study justifying the conversion into a state college, a project development plan, and a five-year institutional plan.</p> <p>Rep. Gasataya recommended instead to make SNHS an extension college of Carlos Hilado Memorial State College. However, according to Alisuag, the CHMSC may not be able to handle at this time the proposed extension college as it is presently preoccupied with complying with the requirements for its conversion to a state university.</p>
	HB 8137	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Establishing a polytechnic state college in the Municipality of Cuyapo, Province of Nueva Ecija to be known as Cuyapo Polytechnic State College and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to thresh out the issues raised relative to HB 8137 and to come up with a substitute bill that will incorporate the recommendations of CHED.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) presented the merits of HB 8137 in behalf of Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), the bill's author.</p> <p>Among the issues raised during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No feasibility study has been conducted yet for the establishment of a state college in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija; and • No land has been identified yet for the site of the proposed state college as required by CHED.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 3655, 3832, 4011, 4133, 4412 & 7105	Rep. Romero, Minority Leader Suarez, Reps. Limkaichong, Singson, Gatchalian, and Alvarez (P.)	Enhancing revenue administration and collection by granting amnesty on all unpaid impositions levied by government for taxable year 2017 and prior years	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1st District, Nueva Ecija), approved the substitute bill with amendments.</p> <p>At the outset, the Chair stressed that the bill, which is one of the priority legislative agenda of the Duterte administration, is expected to enhance business activity and generate more revenues for the government.</p> <p>Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga) was present in the meeting.</p> <p>National Tax Research Center (NTRC) Chief Tax Specialist Donald Boo manifested his support for the bill, saying that it is a revenue-enhancing measure and it will give delinquent taxpayers a clean slate in settling their tax deficiencies.</p> <p>Director Euvimil Nina Asuncion of the Department of Finance's (DOF) Strategy, Economics and Results Group (SERG) proposed that the computation of taxes covered by this proposed tax amnesty law should be based on the total or aggregate assets that a company owns.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon), Asuncion said that the government will generate an estimated P62.4 billion in revenues once the proposed tax amnesty law is implemented.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>AMIN Party-List Rep. Makmod Mending Jr. sought clarification on the rationale for reducing the rate of the amnesty tax on delinquent taxes. Isla Lipana's tax managing partner Ma. Lourdes Lim explained that imposing higher rates will discourage delinquent taxpayers to avail themselves of the tax amnesty. (Isla Lipana is a firm specializing in audit, assurance and tax services.)</p> <p>Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st District, Negros Oriental) added that reducing the amnesty tax rates was previously agreed upon by the technical working group (TWG), which prepared the substitute bill.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 182, 812, 970, 1220, 1527, 2388, 2540, 3040 & 5406	Reps. Olivarez, Batocabe, Romualdez, Umali, Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Reps. Abad (dec.), Tambunting, and former Rep. Roque (H.)	Institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation, enhancing the efficient use of energy, granting incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects	The Committee approved the tax provision of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 203	Deputy Speaker Abueg	Establishing the Southern Palawan Special Economic Zone in the Province of Palawan, creating for the purpose the Southern Palawan Special Economic Zone Authority, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 359	Rep. Rodriguez (M.)	Establishing the Cagayan de Oro Special Economic Zone in Barangay Balubal, Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, providing funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 905	Rep. Savellano	Establishing the special economic zone and freeport in the Province of Ilocos Sur, creating for this purpose the Ilocos Sur Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 2033	Rep. Marcos	Establishing the special economic zone and freeport in the Province of Ilocos Norte, creating for this purpose the Ilocos Norte Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the substitute bill.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4168	Rep. Villafuerte	Establishing the Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone in the Province of Camarines Sur, creating for the purpose the Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone Authority, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the substitute bill.