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BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8417 & SB 1439	Rep. Batocabe and Sen. Gatchalian	Establishing the energy virtual one stop shop (EVOSS) for the purpose of streamlining the permitting process of power generation, transmission, and distribution projects	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, both chairpersons of the Committee on Energy of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, approved the reconciled version of HB 8417 and SB 1439.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco and Sen. Gatchalian expressed confidence that the EVOSS will help improve and fast track the process of approving and issuing permits or certifications or similar actions on applications for new power generation projects, thereby eliminating bureaucratic delays and improving ease of doing business in the country. Moreover, they agreed that the proposed law will encourage more potential investors to invest in the power industry.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Reps. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), and Orestes Salon (Party-List, AGRI); on the part of the Senate, Senator Risa Hontiveros.</p> <p>Based on the reconciled version of the proposed law, EVOSS refers to "an online system that allows the coordinated submission and synchronous processing of all required data and information, and provides a single decision making portal for actions on permits and/ or certifications necessary for or related to an application of a proponent for new power generation, transmission, or distribution projects."</p> <p>Through EVOSS, the power project proponents and developers will submit electronically all the required documents to concerned agencies which are required to act on the applications within the prescribed timeframes. Failure of concerned agencies to act within the timeframe means that the application is deemed approved. This is not applicable, however, to actions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on applications by fossil fuel-based technologies such as coal, natural gas, and oil.</p>