

Committee Daily Bulletin

17th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 71
January 22, 2019

BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Bicameral Conference Committee	HB 8715 & SB 1355	Rep. Yap (V.) and Sen. Legarda	Adopting innovation as vital component of the country's development policies to drive inclusive development, promote the growth and national competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Bicameral Conference Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Dennis Laogan (Party-List, ANG KABUHAYAN), Chair of the House Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development, and Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs, approved the harmonized version of HB 8715 and SB 1355.</p> <p>Other conferees present during the bicameral conference committee meeting were the following: On the part of the House, Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap (3rd District, Bohol), Reps. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Party-List, ACTS-OFW), Ron Salo, (Party-List, KABAYAN), Peter "Sr. Pedro" Unabia (1st District, Misamis Oriental), Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. (2nd District, Camarines Sur), and Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac); on the part of the Senate, Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	Substitute Bill to HBs 8082, 8327 & 8352	Reps. Velasco, Villafuerte, and Alejano	Allocating the net national government share from the Malampaya Natural Gas Project for the payment of the stranded debts and stranded contract costs of the National Power Corporation (NPC) and to finance further exploration, development and exploitation of energy resources to lower electricity rates	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco, who also headed the technical working group (TWG) that crafted the substitute bill, presented the salient features of the proposed law.</p> <p>According to Rep. Velasco, the measure will ultimately decrease the cost of power especially for households with a monthly average power consumption of 200-KwH and below.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy	Substitute Bill to HBs 5020, 5961 & 7104	Reps. Alvarez, (P.) Gatchalian, and Velasco	Strengthening the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) by expanding and streamlining its bureaucracy, upgrading employee skills, augmenting benefits, and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chair of the

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Energy				<p>Committee on Energy, approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. Thereafter, the corresponding Committee Report was also approved.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Roman Uybarreta (Party-List, 1-CARE), co-chair of the technical working group that crafted the substitute bill, presented the salient features of the bill.</p> <p>The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), National Power Corporation (NPC), and Laban Konysumer Inc. expressed support for the bill.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Games and Amusements	Substitute Bill to HBs 6158, 7574 & 8257	Reps. Pacquiao, Rodriguez, (M.), and Pineda	Creating the Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission and providing funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mariano Michael Velarde Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Gus Tambunting (2 nd District, Parañaque City), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, approved the substitute bill and the corresponding Committee Report.
Health	Substitute Bill to HBs 3310, 4630, 5810, 7122, 7153 & 7426	Speaker Macapagal- Arroyo, Reps. Nieto, Lanete, Belaro, Yap (V.), and Vargas	Establishing the Philippine eHealth system and services in the delivery of health services with the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in the Philippines, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 7451, 8183 & 8775	Reps. Bagatsing, Tan (A.) and Villafuerte	Amending RA 10152 or the Mandatory Infants and Health Immunization Act of 2011	The Committee approved the substitute bill.
	HB 8615	Rep. Tan (A.)	Strengthening the fight to end tuberculosis, amending for the purpose RA 10767 or the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act	The Committee approved HB 8615 subject to style and amendment.
	HBs 701, 1929, 2121, 2398, 8199, & 8276	Reps. Eriguel, Uy (J.), Adiong, Bondoc, Santos-Recto, and Bordado	Increasing the bed capacity of certain hospitals in the country, upgrading their services and facilities and professional health care, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the six bills.
	HB 1576	Rep. Vargas	Upgrading the Novaliches District Hospital in Quezon City and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1576 subject to amendment.
	HB 1960	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Establishing the Central Luzon Trauma Center in the Municipality of Zaragoza, Province of Nueva Ecija under the full administrative and technical supervision of the Department of Health (DOH) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1960 subject to the submission of the Certificate of Need (CON) from the DOH Region III.
	HB 2107	Rep. Tejada	Providing for the upgrade, modernization and conversion of the Cotabato Provincial Hospital in the Province of North Cotabato into the North Cotabato Regional Hospital under the control, management and supervision of the DOH, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2107.

Continuation... Health	HB 4435	Rep. Nieto	Upgrading the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC) into a DOH National Center for Trauma, Cancer and Dermatology, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4435 subject to amendment.
	HB 5208	Rep. Sahali	Upgrading of facilities and skills of rural health providers in barangay health stations (BHS), rural health unit (RHU), district and community hospitals to meet the standards of Basic Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care (BEMONC) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New Born Care (CEMONC) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and providing funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 5208 subject to amendment.
	HB 8534	Rep. Mercado	Integrating the Southern Leyte Provincial Hospital into the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center System (EVRMC)	The Committee approved HB 8534 subject to the submission of documentary requirements for the transfer of the administration of the health facility owned by the local government units (LGUs) to the DOH.
	HB 8560	Rep. Ting	Increasing the bed capacity of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) in Tuguegarao City, Province of Cagayan and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 8560 subject to amendment.
	HB 8641 in consolidation with HBs 254, 255, 291, 608, 882, 1335, 1414, 2326, 7396, 8609 & 8613	Rep. Tan (A.), former Rep. Roque (H.), Reps. Abayon, Eriguel, Lopez (B.), Lanete, Salo, Relampagos, Nieto, Gatchalian, and Alonte	Providing for an opt-out system of organ donation and transplantation, amending for the purpose RA 7170, otherwise known as the Organ Donation Act of 1991, promoting the right to health, and providing penalties therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the bills.</p> <p>The TWG will be chaired by Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija).</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 8641, explained that in the “opt-out” organ donation system (which is also called “presumed consent”), everyone is considered as an organ donor unless one expressly states otherwise.</p> <p>Representatives from the DOH’s National Transplant Ethics Committee, National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), and Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p> <p>DOH’s Philippine Network for Organ Sharing (PhilNOS) Program Manager Dr. Francisco Sarmiento disclosed that the country’s current organ donation rate is very low - one donor for every one million population. He said that enacting the proposed law, coupled with a comprehensive reform in the transplant coordination system, such as extensive information dissemination, skills training, and creation of a donors registry system, is expected to increase the organ donation rate.</p> <p>State Counsel Mary Grace Quintana of the Department of Justice (DOJ) expressed the Department’s reservation on the opt-out system which presumes the consent of a</p>

Continuation... Health				<p>person to donate any of his organs after his death. She explained that the measure may transgress freedom of choice and freedom of religion, among other rights. (Under the Organ Donation Act of 1991 or RA 7170, organ donation is voluntary.)</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go manifested that the proposed law should be studied further.</p>
Overseas Workers Affairs	Substitute Bill to HBs 8197 & 8414	Deputy Speaker Villarica and Rep. Alejano	Establishing the Office for Social Welfare Attache, amending for the purpose RA 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 8197 & 8414.
	HB 8672	Rep. Manalo	Protecting seafarers who suffer serious injury or death, and their families	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8672 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo stressed that there should be a law extending full protection to seafarers and their families during times of injury and death considering their substantial contribution to the national economy.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Wilfredo Caminero (2nd District, Cebu) on why incidents of seafarer disappearance are not covered under the bill, Rep. Manalo explained that the bill only covers deaths that have been certified, and injuries that have already been identified.</p> <p>Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Hans Leo Caddac suggested that appropriate procedures be put in place to guide the family of the deceased seafarers in availing themselves of the benefits under the proposed law.</p> <p>The Vice President for Internal Affairs of the Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), Jesus Sale Jr., pointed out the need to identify in the bill the rights of seafarers and their heirs, and to determine the agency which shall be responsible for ensuring that these rights are protected.</p> <p>Representatives from the Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) and AMOSUP expressed their support for the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 8842	Rep. Manalo	Facilitating the global employment of Filipinos	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8842 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
Public Order and Safety	HB 8689	Rep. Pimentel	Increasing the recruitment quota requirement of female Philippine National Police (PNP) officers, amending for the	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Romeo Acop (2 nd District, Antipolo City), approved HB 8689.

Continuation... Public Order and Safety			purpose Section 58 of RA 8551, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, appropriating funds therefor	
	Privilege Speech 301	Rep. Cerilles	On the alleged injustice committed by the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Head and Acting Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Catalino Cuy against Governor Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur over drug-related issue	<p>The Committee terminated its discussion on Privilege Speech 301. Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon presided over the deliberation on this measure.</p> <p>Rep. Aurora Enerio Cerilles (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur) reiterated her position that the withdrawal of the deputation of Governor Antonio Cerilles as NAPOLCOM representative in Zamboanga del Sur was done in bad faith by the NAPOLCOM as it was based merely on a supposed confidential report on the Governor's alleged abuse of authority and that the Governor was not accorded due process that would have allowed him to refute the allegations against him.</p> <p>Gov. Cerilles criticized the PNP for its actions especially when it refused to specify the alleged abuses that he committed which led him to believe that the removal of his deputation was an act to destroy his reputation in view of the forthcoming elections. He also clarified that his name never appeared in any "narco list."</p> <p>The Committee requested the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) to submit a copy of the letter that it sent to President Rodrigo Duterte requesting permission to furnish Gov. Cerilles a copy of the confidential report which served as the basis for the withdrawal of his NAPOLCOM deputation.</p> <p>NAPOLCOM was also requested by the Committee to submit the minutes of the meeting during which the decision to withdraw the deputation of Gov. Cerilles was made.</p>
Revision of Laws	HB 8701	Rep. Alejano	Declaring July 12 of every year as a special working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the historic decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in favor of the Philippines over the West Philippine Sea maritime dispute	The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, approved HB 8701 subject to style.
	HB 8792	Rep. Evardone	Declaring December 11 of every year a special non-working national holiday of the Republic of the Philippines to be known as the International Friendship, Cooperation and Diplomacy Day in the Philippines	The Committee approved HB 8792 subject to style.
	HBs 3713, 8383 & 8614	Reps. Defensor, Floirendo, and Evardone	Declaring special non-working holidays in certain parts of the country to commemorate special events	The Committee approved the three bills subject to style and the submission of documentary requirements.

Continuation... Revision of Laws	HB 6761	Rep. Marcoleta	Providing for a prescriptive period from which the Commission on Audit (COA) may conduct audits and issue a decision on cases, amending for the purpose PD 1445 or the State Audit Code of the Philippines	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6761 in its next meeting.</p> <p>HB 6761 seeks to prescribe a period from which COA may conduct audits and issue a decision on cases. The explanatory note attached to the bill stated that COA's practice of conducting post-audit many years after the grant of the fund to the implementing agencies and partner organizations does not sit well with the time-bound monitoring and inspection function of the audit.</p> <p>COA's Legal Affairs Office OIC Daryl Tonolet informed the Committee that the Commission has assigned a team to review and update PD 1445, which was issued way back in 1978.</p> <p>COA was asked to submit to the Committee the findings and recommendations of the team as soon as it becomes available.</p>
Rural Development	Substitute Bill to HB 6997	Rep. Ramos	Providing for a Rural Development Amelioration Trust Fund	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Deogracias Ramos Jr. (2nd District, Sorsogon), approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6997.</p> <p>Rep. Ramos said that upon the recommendation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the rural development amelioration trust fund to be given to every rural barangay that has been awarded with a "seal of good local governance" by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), will be P2 million instead of the initial proposal of P4 million.</p> <p>He also said that the fund will be used for development projects related to agriculture and fishery, education, nutrition, health, and social services.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Prospero Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) suggested that instead of channeling the entire fund to the DILG, which is already responsible for a huge budget of its own, portions of the fund may be allocated to other agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), which has the expertise in this field. He also mentioned the need to ascertain first the number of rural barangays with a seal of good local governance to determine the amount of budget involved.</p> <p>Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) agreed with the Deputy Speaker considering that the P2 million fund is comparatively bigger than the average annual revenues of some barangays.</p> <p>On Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo's (1st District, Lanao del Norte) query as to how</p>

Continuation... Rural Development				<p>rural development projects will be determined, Deputy Speaker Pichay said that the responsibility of identifying the projects lies with the barangay chairperson who should know the specific needs of his area.</p> <p>Meanwhile, DA National Deputy Project Director for the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) Cirilo Namoc gave a short briefing on the PRDP. Namoc said the PRDP is a six-year (2014-2020) project designed to establish the government platform for a modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agri-fishery sector. The project will involve partnering with local government units (LGUs) to implement projects in infrastructure and agri-fishery enterprises and facilities.</p>
Science and Technology	HBs 7740 & 7952	Reps. Aumentado and Mangaoang	Providing for the modernization of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology (PNRI-DOST) and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the two bills.</p> <p>Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, author of HB 7952, was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Resource persons from the PNRI-DOST, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills.</p>
	HB 8008	Rep. Sy- Alvarado	Creating the National Nuclear Radiation Safety Board and defining its scope, functions and powers	The Committee agreed to incorporate the relevant provisions of HB 8008 to HB 8733, which was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives last January 14.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Special Committee on Senior Citizens (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 8208, 8274, 8559 & 8768	Reps. Go (M.), Calixto-Rubiano, Zamora (R.), and Villafuerte	Including senior citizens who reach the age of 85, 90, and 95 in the grant of cash gift provided under RA 10868, otherwise known as the "Centenarians Act of 2016"	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay (Party-List, Senior Citizen), approved the substitute bill subject to style and amendment. The substitute bill will be reported out to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>The TWG agreed that all Filipinos who reach the age of 85 and 90 shall receive each time a cash gift in the amount of P25,000 and those who reach the age of 95 shall receive P50,000. The cash gift will be awarded during the occasion of the Elderly Filipino Week, October 01 to 07 of every year, or 120 days after the effectivity of the proposed law, whichever comes earlier.</p>

Transportation (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4085, 4669, 4891, 6009, 6089, 6340, 6407, & 6467	Reps. Bernos, Castelo, Batocabe (dec.), Nograles (J.), Bagatsing, Castelo, Gatchalian, and Villafuerte	Regulating the transport network companies/transport network vehicle services (TNCs/TNVS), prescribing the requirements, guidelines and standards for their operations, imposing and authorizing fees, and providing penalties for violations thereof	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, will deliberate further on the 17 measures in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG focused its discussion on the following issues and concerns: delay in the accreditation of TNCs; lack of fare structure for TNVS; liability of TNVS in case of road accidents; and the proposal by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to hook up its system to that of the TNCs to ensure accurate and efficient collection of taxes.</p> <p>LTFRB Executive Director Samuel Jardin explained that the delay in the accreditation of TNCs was due to questions on their ownership structure with some of them (such as Velox Technology Philippines and I-Taxi Transport Service) allegedly owned by foreign companies at stakes higher than the required maximum 40% foreign ownership. In the case of Grab, Jardin said it has not submitted yet the documents required by the LTFRB.</p> <p>Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) General Counsel Camilo Correa advised Grab that it should assign 60% of its shares to Filipinos in order to comply with the requirements of SEC.</p> <p>Grab's head of Public Affairs Leo Gonzales countered the earlier statements made stressing that the company has already complied with the requirements of the SEC and LTFRB since December 2018.</p> <p>As regards the fare structure for TNVS, Jardin stated that the LTFRB has already requested the TNCs to submit their proposal on fare structure prior to their registration/accreditation. The LTFRB has also provided the TNVS with a common fare matrix per type/class of vehicle to serve as their reference.</p> <p>On the liability of TNCs and TNVS in case of road accidents, the same rules governing public utility vehicles (PUVs) will be applied to them.</p> <p>Meanwhile, BIR National Investigation Division Chief Roberto Baquiran proposed that the BIR be hooked up to the TNCs' system for tax collection purposes, and suggested further that such procedure be made a requirement prior to the accreditation of all TNCs.</p> <p>Jardin expressed his approval to Baquiran's suggestion.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their final inputs to the bills at hand which will be taken into consideration by the TWG in the drafting of a substitute bill.</p>
	HB 6766	Deputy Speaker Yap	Prescribing rideshare support companies, providing regulations governing their operations, and clarifying the scope of Commonwealth Act 146, also known as the Tax Code, and the Land Transportation Traffic Code, and other relevant laws	
	HB 8790	Rep. Nieto	Requiring TNCs and operators and service providers for transport network vehicle services TNVS to acquire comprehensive third-party liability insurance coverage for the welfare of the riding public	
	HR 403	Rep. Agarao	Investigation into the operations of existing TNCs (Uber, Grab and U-Hop) particularly respecting the legality of their existence, safety of transporting their passengers, abuses committed by their accredited TNVS and their liabilities, and the absence of congressional franchise as a significant prerequisite for their operations	
	HR 573	Rep. Panganiban	Investigation into the accreditation given by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to TNCs	
	HR 1125	Former Rep. Roque (H.)	Inquiry into the suspension of issuance of permits to TNVS by the LTFRB	
	HR 1138	Rep. Bagatsing	Inquiry into the process and guidelines implemented by LTFRB regarding public ride sharing and recommending remedial measures for the safety of the riding public	
	HR 1139	Rep. Uybarreta	Directing the LTFRB to finalize the new guidelines for the issuance of certificate of public convenience (CPC) to TNVS	
	HR 1140	Rep. Antonio	Inquiry into the process being followed by the LTFRB in granting franchises to TNVS providers	
	HR 1151	Rep. Sarmiento (E.)	Inquiry into the appropriate regulatory framework for TNCs and TNVS	

DISCUSSIONS WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Overseas Workers Affairs	Update on the disbursement of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Trust Fund for the implementation of programs for land-based and sea-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Jesulito Manalo (Party-List, ANGKLA), discussed with concerned government agencies the status of utilization of the OWWA Trust Fund.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo asked OWWA about the skills training programs and other forms of assistance that the agency is providing to seafarers and their families.</p> <p>OWWA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac informed the Committee that OWWA implements various programs aimed at enhancing the skills of the OFWs. He also mentioned that OWWA provides scholarship, livelihood, calamity and medical assistance to OFWs and their families.</p> <p>Rep. Manalo stressed that the purpose of the welfare fund is to ensure that the OFWs will get the right set of skills that will make them competitive globally. He remarked that if the funds are not being utilized accordingly, then Congress should study other options on how to optimize the use of the funds.</p> <p>Based on RA 10801, signed in May 2016, the OWWA Fund is a private fund held in trust by the OWWA. One of the main sources of the fund is the US\$25 membership contribution of OFWs which is paid every time they leave the country under a new employment contract. The fund can only be used to serve the welfare of member-OFWs and their families, to include the financing of core programs and services of the OWWA.</p>