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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HBs 2075 and 2732	Rep. Sy-Alvarado and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Strengthening the promotion and delivery of mental health services in basic education through the hiring and deployment of mental health professionals, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 2075 and 2732, subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Romulo said that in the Committee's previous meeting, the Department of Education (DepEd) was directed to present an alternative proposal to the substitute bill, particularly on the proposed creation of a Bureau of Health and Well-Being. This was requested from the DepEd officials because of their comment that the creation of a new bureau is not necessary as there are already existing offices in the DepEd that cater to the mental health concerns of students and teachers.</p> <p>DepEd Director Anne Rachel Miguel recommended that instead of creating a new bureau, additional positions for guidance counselors may be created in the DepEd's central office as well as its field offices and in schools. She also said that DepEd's proposal allows the guidance counselors to climb the career ladder and obtain executive level positions.</p> <p>The Committee adopted the proposal not to create a new bureau, but that there should be a career progression for guidance counselors up to the division level. Likewise, the Committee deemed it necessary to make the salary grades of guidance counselors equivalent to teachers.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 2117	Rep. Garcia (J.E.)	Regulating the conduct of off-campus educational activities by public and private schools and for other purposes	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 2117 subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia III (2nd District, Bataan), author of HB 2117, said that his bill seeks to provide the framework for implementing and regulating off-campus educational activities in an environment that encourages meaningful learning, ensures the well-being and safety of learners, and punishes any act by those involved in the activity that puts the learners in harm's way.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from DepEd, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture	Substitute Bill to HB 3222	Rep. Erice	Declaring the San Roque Parish in Caloocan City a national historical site for history, freedom and independence, providing for its preservation and improvement, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 3222 subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4479	Rep. Espina	Establishing a cultural center and museum in the Province of Biliran to be known as Biliran Cultural Center and Museum and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 4479 subject to style and amendment. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.
	HB 8045	Rep. Romulo	Instituting the Charter of the National Library of the Philippines, defining its objectives, powers, and functions, repealing for this purpose Act Nos. 222, 1849, 1935, 2572 & 3477, E.O. 94, and RAs 3873, 10087 & 7743	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8045 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo, author of HB 8045, said that his bill seeks to institutionalize the Charter of the National Library of the Philippines to define its functions and structure better. This will enhance the services of the National Library which contribute to the intellectual, social, and cultural development of the country and its people.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon) suggested that the measure previously filed establishing libraries in different regions and cities be consolidated with the proposed law, to which Rep. Romulo agreed.</p> <p>Expressing support for the proposed law were representatives from the NCCA, DepEd, CHED, Department of Budget and Management, and Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.</p> <p>The resource persons were directed to submit their position papers on the bill.</p>
	HB 7876	Rep. Cuaresma	Establishing an electronics donation and recycling program to provide additional resources for public school students, address the demands of the modern society, and to promote effective electronic waste management	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 7876 and HR 1309 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party List, MARINO) sponsored HB 7876 and HR 1309 on behalf of the authors.</p>
	HR 1309	Rep. Pancho	Calling on the Bureau of Customs (BuCor) to donate confiscated information and communications technology (ICT) equipment for the use of public school students to help our schools, especially our teachers and our youth, cope and adjust with the new normal in education brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic	<p>Representing the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Atty. Karen Anne Yambao informed the body that the BOC has been donating confiscated electronic gadgets to the DepEd but subject to the approval by the National Telecommunications Commission.</p> <p>The resource persons were directed to submit their position papers on the measures.</p>
	HB 490	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	Declaring 'Baybayin' as the National Writing System of the Philippines, providing for its promotion, protection, preservation and conservation	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate HBs 490 and 5984 and thresh out issues raised related to these bills.
	HB 5984	Rep. Nieto	Promoting the Philippine indigenous/traditional writing systems, the use of Baybayin as a tool for cultural development of the Philippines, providing for its protection, preservation and conservation	<p>Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3rd District, Manila), author of HB 5984, underscored the importance of preserving Baybayin as it was the indigenous written language of the early Filipinos dating as far back as pre-Spanish colonization.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary Tonisito Umali expressed support for HB 5984 and pointed out that the</p>

<p>Continuation... Basic Education and Culture</p>				<p>present basic education curriculum includes the study of Baybayin along with other traditional writing systems under the <i>Araling Panlipunan</i> subject.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) manifested her support for the bill but has reservations on the provision declaring Baybayin as the "National Writing System of the Philippines."</p> <p>Likewise, the NHCP and CHED were not supportive of the proposal making Baybayin as the national writing system.</p> <p>NHCP Chair Rene Escalante explained that each region has a different version of the Baybayin script and choosing a particular version of Baybayin as the national writing system will favor one region over other regions in the country.</p> <p>CHED-Technical Committee for Filipino member Dr. Pamela Constantino expressed concern that adopting Baybayin as the national writing system might affect student learning. Constantino explained that as of now, there is already a problem in literacy even with the use of Filipino and other regional languages. If Baybayin will henceforth be used in the classrooms and in everyday life, students will have to learn this ancient writing system in order to understand their lessons.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position papers for consideration by the TWG.</p>
<p>Higher and Technical Education</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 3795, 84, 510, 1099, 3340, 3894, 4137, 6662, 7032, 7132 & 7410</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Garbin Castro (F.L.), Salo, Herrera-Dy, Silverio, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Cayetano, Tambunting, Delos Santos, and Deputy Speaker Villanueva</p>	<p>Enhancing the continuing professional development (CPD) of Filipino professionals as an integral component of the career progression and specialization programs, amending for the purpose RA 10912, otherwise known as the CPD Act of 2016, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the 11 bills.</p>
	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 7473 & 7809</p>	<p>Rep. Bañas-Nogales</p>	<p>Establishing the College of Medicine in Mindanao State University (MSU), General Santos City campus, providing for its governance, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 7473 and 7809.</p>
	<p>HBs 7557, 7682 & 7795</p>	<p>Reps. Dalog, Mangaoang, and Garcia (J.E.)</p>	<p>Establishing provincial/field offices of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in Mountain Province and in the Provinces of Kalinga and Bataan, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Reports on HBs 7557, 7682 and 7795.</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HB 7857	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing a medical school in the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) main campus in the Municipality of Lucban, Province of Quezon to be known as the Southern Luzon State University – College of Medicine and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 7857.
	Substitute Resolution to HR 1195	Rep. Castelo	Commending and congratulating the University of the Philippines (UP) and De La Salle University (DLSU) for retaining their respective spots in the latest world university rankings released by London-based Times Higher Education (THE)	The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Resolution to HR 1195.
	Substitute Bill to HB 6439	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Declaring the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) as the National Maritime Academy, strengthening it for the purpose, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HB 6439 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the PMMA and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).</p> <p>The Philippine Navy proposed to increase the mandatory government service of PMMA graduates from two years to a range of six to eight years.</p> <p>Under Section 23 (Mandatory Government Service) of the proposed law, “graduates of the undergraduate degree programs of the PMMA who will opt to work in the merchant marine industry, either domestic or international trade, shall be required to provide a minimum of two years cumulative full-time service to the government in any of its agencies, instrumentalities, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), within 10 years after graduation.”</p>
	HB 7742	Rep. Ferrer (L.)	Establishing a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training and accreditation center in the City of General Trias, Province of Cavite, to be known as the General Trias TESDA Training and Assessment Center and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 7742 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The TESDA expressed its support for the bill but recommended that the proposed center be renamed as the General Trias TESDA Training Center, which will serve as the provincial training center of TESDA in the Province of Cavite.</p>
	HB 7797	Rep. Yap (V.)	Amending the provisions of RA 6764 or the Tarlac State University (TSU) Charter, and appropriating funds therefor (by revising its charter to adapt to the future and make the university globally competitive)	<p>The Committee approved HB 7797 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the TSU and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC).</p> <p>CHED supports the bill, subject to the TSU’s compliance with RA 8292 or the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997.</p>
HB 7924	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Converting the Pinamungajan extension campus of the Cebu Technological University (CTU) in the Municipality of Pinamungajan, Province of Cebu, into a regular campus, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the three bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the CTU and PASUC.</p>	

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	HBs 7925 & 7926	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Establishing Cebu Technological University (CTU) satellite campuses in the City of Toledo and in the Municipality of Asturias, both in the Province of Cebu, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	Likewise, CHED supports the bill, provided that the CTU comply with its requirements on the conversion and establishment of campuses.
	HB 6016	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Providing campus housing to tenured faculty members in state universities and colleges (SUCs)	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6016 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The bill seeks to provide in-campus housing to tenured faculty members at affordable rental charges and in accordance with the criteria and standards set by the Board of Regents of the SUC. Qualified faculty members will have the right to stay in these housing units during their lifetime to ensure that they live comfortably in the home they grew accustomed to and save them from the inconvenience of moving elsewhere and looking for alternative housing during their old age or retirement.</p> <p>According to CHED, it has already signed the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11396 or the Land Use Development and Infrastructure Program (LUDIP) Act which provides housing sites for SUC employees including members of the faculty. The LUDIP Act was signed into law on August 22, 2019. CHED has also issued CHED Memorandum Order No. 11, series of 2020, for the SUCs' guidance in crafting their respective LUDIP.</p>
	HB 1596	Deputy Speaker Romero	Providing for additional developmental, operational, and organizational funding for the TESDA	The Committee deferred consideration of the two bills to give the authors the opportunity to discuss the merits of their bills in the Committee's next meeting.
	HB 7661	Rep. De Los Santos	Mandating the TESDA to update the existing Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP), Special Training for Employment Program (STEP), and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Program	
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Substitute Bill to HBs 639 & 2281	Deputy Speaker Legarda and Rep. Acosta-Alba	Recognizing the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) community conserved territories and areas (ICCA), establishing for the purpose the National ICCA Registry, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang, approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to HBs 639 and 2281.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1738, 1823, 3758, 3919, 4429, 7119 & 7598	Reps. Villafuerte, Chatto, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Rep. Cagas, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Reps. Vargas, and Cabochan	Establishing resource centers for ICCs/IPs to enhance and ensure delivery of essential services, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to the seven bills.</p> <p>Rep. Mangaoang said that with the proposed law, resource centers will be established in areas where IPs reside which will facilitate the delivery of essential services to this group. He said that because IPs mostly live in remote areas, many of them do not have access to education and training to equip them for a better job.</p>

<i>Continuation...</i> Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Substitute Bill to HBs 1332 & 2812	Rep. Brosas and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Providing for free and culture-sensitive civil registration system for IPs	The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 1332 and 2812 subject to style and amendment. Rep. Mangaoang said that proper identification of IPs will make it easier for them to avail of government services and benefits.
	Committee Resolution	Rep. Mangaoang	Proposing to His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte a strategic budgetary intervention for FY 2021 and 2022 that will result in peaceful, resilient and productive ancestral domains	The Committee adopted the Committee Resolution with amendment. Rep. Mangaoang said that the Committee Resolution is in recognition of the need to augment the 2021 budget of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for the benefit of the IPs. Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) expressed support for the Resolution. She suggested that the wordings of the Resolution be amended considering that the Conference Committee meeting on the proposed 2021 national budget has already concluded. She further proposed that details, like the number of indigenous peoples and how much is being spent for each IP, be included in the Resolution to stress the need to augment the NCIP's budget.
Natural Resources	HB 8095	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Declaring 827,754 square meters of timberlands within the territorial boundaries of Barangay Malaubang, City of Ozamiz, Province of Misamis Occidental as alienable and disposable lands open to disposition for commercial, residential, industrial and other productive purposes	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 th District, Cavite), approved HB 8095 subject to the submission by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region X of the technical description of the territorial boundaries of the area covered by the bill. The DENR and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) interposed no objections to the proposed law.
	HB 4441	Rep. Acosta	Reclassifying certain parcels of land of the public domain located in Barangays Cabigaan, Magbabadil, Barake, Iraan, Saggangan, Isaub, San Juan, Apurawan and Culandanum of the Municipality of Aborlan, Province of Palawan as alienable and disposable land	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4441 in its next meeting. Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr." Acosta (3 rd District, Palawan), author of HB 4441, said that the measure is a refiled bill from the 17 th Congress. DENR MIMAROPA Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Officer Eriberto Saños informed the Committee that a technical evaluation of the subject area was not conducted due to budgetary constraints. Rep. Acosta said that he is willing to shoulder the cost of conducting the evaluation just to facilitate the same as it is one of the requirements needed in reclassifying certain parcels of land in the Municipality of Aborlan, Province of Palawan.
	HB 4766	Rep. Villanueva	Reclassifying certain parcels of land of public domain located in sitios from the different Barangays of Anupul, San Nicolas, San Roque and Lourdes, all in the Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac from unclassified forests lands into alienable and disposable lands	The Committee will deliberate further on HB 4766 in its next meeting. Rep. Noel Villanueva (3 rd District, Tarlac), author of HB 4766, said that he is waiting for the comprehensive report on the areas covered by the bill that was promised to him by DENR Region III

Continuation... Natural Resources				<p>Director Francisco Milla Jr. The report will aid the Committee Members in deciding on the legislative measure.</p> <p>DENR Region III Assistant Director Arturo Fabriguela said that Milla was already reassigned to another regional office. Nevertheless, Fabriguela assured the Committee that he will follow-up with Milla the submission of the report required by Rep. Villanueva.</p>
	HB 6235	Rep. Roman	<p>Converting a portion of the land, embraced under Proclamation No. 508 and Proclamation No. 532 as alienable and disposable to the actual bona fide occupants thereof</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 6235 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Fabriguela and NAMRIA Geospatial Integration Division Chief Beata Batadlan said that there are portions of land covered by HB 6235 that should be excluded from the conversion based on Presidential Decree 705, series of 1975, which revised the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines. They added that these portions of land are considered biohazards. Thus, a technical evaluation is necessary to determine the specific area that should only be converted into alienable and disposable lands.</p> <p>Rep. Geraldine Roman (1st District, Bataan), author of HB 6235, asked when DENR can conduct the evaluation.</p> <p>Fabriguela admitted that there is no budget to conduct the same. However, he will get in touch with the DENR provincial office, the local government, and Rep. Roman to discuss how the conduct of the technical evaluation may be facilitated so that it will be completed by the end of Jan 2021.</p>
	HB 8039	Deputy Speaker Oaminal	<p>Declaring the lands within the territorial boundaries of the Municipality of Don Victoriano, Province of Misamis Occidental as alienable and disposable lands open to disposition for agricultural, commercial, residential, industrial, and other productive purposes</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 8039 in its next meeting.</p> <p>According to DENR OIC-Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Aldrich Resma, from more than 300,000 hectares to be covered under the bill, only 75,000 hectares may be converted as alienable and disposable lands based on the technical evaluation of the DENR. He said that most of the areas covered by the bill are within the protected area of Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal (2nd District, Misamis Occidental), author of HB 8039, said that the local government already spent P2 billion for the construction of roads leading to Don Victoriano. He also said that the land area mentioned by Resma cuts across several municipalities and not just the area situated within the Municipality of Don Victoriano.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their position paper on the proposed law.</p>
	HB 7182	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	<p>Excluding certain portions of Sitio Baquilan in Barangay San Juan, Municipality of Botolan, Province of</p>	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 7182 in its next meeting.</p>

Continuation... Natural Resources			Zambales from the operation of Proclamation 907, series of 1992, and declaring the excluded portions as residential area and open to disposition under the provisions of RA 730 (or the law permitting the sale without public auction of public lands of the Republic of the Philippines for residential purposes to qualified applicants under certain conditions), as amended, to bona fide residents actually occupying the same without public auction	Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2 nd District, Zambales), author of HB 7182, informed the Committee that the measure is a refiled bill from the 16 th and 17 th Congresses. According to Rep. Deloso-Montalla, what NAMRIA submitted was a technical description of the boundaries of the whole Municipality of Botolan instead of just the portion which needs to be declared as residential area open to disposition. She said that she is still waiting for the technical description of the specific subject area from the DENR and NAMRIA. Fabriguela said that the local office of the DENR already conducted the survey and will submit a copy of the results by the first week of January 2021.
	HB 266	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Establishing watershed reservations in certain parcels of land situated in Abra De Ilog, Calintaan, Magsaysay, Mamburao, Paluan, Rizal, Sablayan, Sta. Cruz and San Jose in the Province of Occidental Mindoro, and Bulalacao, Mansalay, Puerto Galera, and San Teodoro in Oriental Mindoro	The Committee will deliberate further on the five bills in its next meeting. The resource persons from the DENR Regions III, IV-B, VII, X, and XIII were requested to submit their position papers on the bills and the survey on the technical boundaries of areas covered by the bills.
	HB 267	Rep. Ramirez-Sato	Establishing the final forestland boundary of the Province of Occidental Mindoro	The DENR officials disclosed that the surveys could not be conducted at this point because the DENR has no available funds for this purpose.
	HB 1063	Rep. Yap (V.)	Reclassifying as agricultural land open to disposition under the provisions of the Public Land Act, as amended, the land covered by Proclamation No. 602, dated April 12, 2004, declaring as ecotourism park and campsite purposes a certain parcel of land of the public domain situated in Barangays Lubigan, Moriones, and Iba in the Municipality of San Jose, Province of Tarlac	Rep. Barzaga recommended that funds for the conduct of surveys should be included in the annual budget of the DENR under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to avoid delays in the performance of its mandate.
	HB 5188	Rep. Pimentel	Reclassifying a developed portion of forest land under concession with PICOP, located in the City of Bislig and the Municipalities of Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina, Province of Surigao del Sur, into alienable and disposable land of the public domain for the purpose of distributing the same to bona fide and long term farmers/occupants thereof	
	HB 5731	Rep. Salimbangon	Rationalizing the management of the natural resources, located in Malapascua Island, Barangay Logon in the Municipality of Daanbantayan, Province of Cebu, amending for the purpose Presidential Proclamation 2151, declaring certain island and/or parts of the country as wilderness areas	
Revision of Laws	HB 152	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta	Requiring the impounding of motor vehicles involved in a vehicular incident that resulted in the death or serious physical injury of a pedestrian, commuter or by-stander, unless a cash bond is posted	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2 nd District, Zambales), approved HB 152 subject to style. Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HB 152, noted that judgments

Continuation... Revision of Laws				<p>rendered in favor of victims killed or seriously injured as a result of reckless driving by drivers of private vehicles or public utility vehicles are hardly enforced. He said that the consequential damages awarded are often delayed or could no longer be enforced because by the time decision on the case is rendered, the perpetrator, or owner and/or operator of the vehicle involved in the accident, is left with no more asset to answer for the adjudged civil damages. The proposed law, therefore, makes it mandatory for the court to hold the vehicle in <i>custodia legis</i> (in custody of the law) or require the owner or operator of the vehicle to post a cash bond.</p> <p>Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) lawyer Victor Ang suggested that the bill broaden its scope to cover not only pedestrians, commuters, and by-standers, who died or sustained serious physical injury resulting from the traffic incident as described in the measure, but also any person who sustained even lesser physical injuries due to the accident.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO) manifested his strong support for the bill. He favors the bill's coverage being limited to victims who died and suffered serious physical injury to also protect innocent drivers against unscrupulous individuals who feign injury to exact undeserved payment.</p> <p>Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante and Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) Lieutenant Colonel Darwin Clark Paz likewise expressed support for the measure.</p> <p>Paz suggested that a provision be included in the bill requiring the payment of impounding fees to cover for the preservation and maintenance of the impounded vehicle.</p>
	HBs 582 & 7230	Deputy Speakers Villanueva and Escudero	Amending Section 6 of RA 1379, otherwise known as the Forfeiture Law, to provide a fixed percentage of the value of forfeited properties in corruption cases as additional funding for the Office of the Ombudsman	<p>The Committee approved HBs 582 and 7230. The Secretariat was directed to consolidate the two measures and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1st District, Sorsogon), author of HB 7230, stated that her bill seeks to augment the financial resources of the Office of the Ombudsman by allowing it to have a share in the proceeds from any property forfeited in favor of the State pursuant to RA 1379 or the Forfeiture Law. She said the measure provides for a mechanism wherein 30% of the value of the forfeited assets shall accrue to the Office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>Ombudsman Samuel Martirez and Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) Commissioner Yvette Contacto expressed their support for the proposed law.</p>
	HB 146	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta	Providing for a prescriptive period from which the Commission on Audit (COA) may conduct audit and issue a decision	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 146.

Continuation... Revision of Laws			on cases, amending for the purpose PD 1445 or the State Audit Code of the Philippines	<p>Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, author of HB 146, was designated chair of the TWG.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker noted that the COA's practice of conducting post-audit many years after the grant of fund and implementation of the project is contrary to the time-bound monitoring and inspection function of the audit, and is unfair to agencies and offices which are required to produce documents for projects that were implemented many years earlier.</p> <p>The Deputy Speaker stressed that with such practice, COA can conveniently check on any project regardless of the period that lapsed since its completion; and can take its "sweet day" when to file or act on an audit report, which he said is tantamount to harassment or grave abuse of discretion. Hence, to avoid such injustice, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta said the bill imposes a prescriptive period of two years on COA's audits.</p> <p>COA Director and Officer-in-charge of the Legal Services Sector Fortunata Rubico opined that the proposed two-year prescriptive period will be an encroachment on the authority of COA to define the scope and technique of its audit. Under Section 2 (2), Article IX of the Constitution, "COA shall have exclusive authority to define the scope of its audit and examination, establish the techniques and methods required therefor, and promulgate accounting and auditing rules and regulations."</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Marcoleta stressed that while COA may issue its own rules under Article IX of the Constitution, such rules must not diminish, increase, or modify any substantive rights, such as the right of all persons to a speedy disposition of their cases, which is also provided under the Constitution.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur) concurred with Deputy Speaker Marcoleta's statements, and manifested his desire to join the TWG and submit documentary evidence attesting to COA's inefficiencies.</p>
HBs 1842 & 2443	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez and Rep. Villafuerte		Further regulating the sale of second hand articles, particularly electronic and telecommunications equipment, amending for the purpose PD 1612, otherwise known as the Anti-Fencing Law of 1979	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate and fine-tune HBs 1842 and 2443.</p> <p>Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Legislative Liaison Officer, Atty. Frederick Espinosa, expressed full support for the measure, adding that the DICT assists government agencies in formulating guidelines on matters involving information and communications technology.</p>
HB 148	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta		Expanding the coverage of and imposing stiffer penalties for the crime of revelation of secrets, amending for the purpose Articles 291 & 292 of Act No. 3815, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate, if possible, the 23 bills seeking to amend or repeal certain provisions of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code (RPC) of the Philippines. The Committee also agreed that should consolidation of the bills</p>

Continuation... Revision of Laws	HBs 155, 6378 & 6825	Deputy Speaker Teves, Reps. Haresco, and Deloso- Montalla	Proposing amendments to Articles 181, 182, 183 & 184 of Act No. 3815, as amended (by increasing the penalty for perjury and false testimonies)	<p>will not be possible, then a draft substitute bill shall be crafted for each bill or set of bills having the same subject matter.</p> <p>Commenting on HBs 155, 6378 and 6825, DOJ State Counsels Mary Grace Pulido-Sadian and Charles Romulus Cambaliza said they have no objection to the increase in penalty for the felonies described under Articles 181, 182, 183, and 184 of the RPC.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA), in a letter addressed to Rep. Deloso-Montalla, stated that the three bills – HBs 1141, 1144, and 1149 – being proposed by the GABRIELA Party-List are all intended for the protection and welfare of women, the youth, and the country. She also called on the Committee to repeal or amend laws that do not treat women fairly.</p> <p>DOJ State Counsel Albert Abragan II, commenting on HB 1144, opined that decriminalizing adultery and concubinage might create the impression that the State is condoning marital infidelity, and may also limit the relief demandable against the guilty spouse. He also cited the proposed law's effect on the preservation of the sanctity of marriage and on the protection of the family enshrined in the Constitution.</p> <p>Josephine Khaleen Sasuman, representative of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), argued that adultery and concubinage defined and punished under Articles 333 and 334 of the RPC are merely violations of the contract of marriage, as such, the liability for these should only be civil in nature.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 1653, said that his bill seeks to amend Article 19 of the RPC to impose a higher penalty for persons in authority who directly cause or order the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes. He explained that the involvement of members of law enforcement agencies in crimes diminishes the respect and confidence of the public on the authorities. He said news of law enforcement officers covering up or assisting in the conduct of illegal activities, through the destruction or concealment of evidence, are not uncommon. A higher penalty for this offense will not only serve as a deterrent, but is likewise commensurate to the offense committed by a person in authority.</p> <p>Rep. Niña Taduran (Party-List, ACT-CIS), co-author of HB 6273, said that her bill seeks to amend the definition of "estafa" or "swindling" under Article 315 of the RPC to include willful non-payment of correctly imposed public transportation fees as a mode of committing the felony. She explained that innovative transportation methods or services that utilize the advancements in communication technology have been the trend in recent years. She said that in the forefront of this brand new services are</p>
	HB 577	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Defining and penalizing marital infidelity, amending for the purpose Act No. 3815	
	HBs 1141 & 8127	Reps. Brosas and Tambunting	Repealing Article 247 (Death or Physical Injuries Under Exceptional Circumstances) of Act No. 3815	
	HB 1144	Rep. Brosas	Decriminalizing adultery and concubinage, repealing for this purpose Articles 333 & 334 of Act No. 3815	
	HB 1149	Rep. Brosas	Repealing Articles 202 (Vagrants and prostitutes; Penalty) & 341 (White slavery trade) of Act No. 3815 and instituting a system of protection for victims of prostitution	
	HB 1653	Rep. Cabochan	Prescribing a higher penalty for persons in authority as accessories, who directly cause or order the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes, amending for the purpose Article 19 of Act No. 3815	
	HB 1835	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Abolishing the penalty of imprisonment in libel cases, amending for the purpose Articles 355, 357 & 360 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
	HB 2194	Rep. Castelo	Including acts committed on account of road rage in the aggravating circumstances, amending for the purpose Article 14 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
	HB 2335	Deputy Speaker Escudero	Addressing the system of prostitution, imposing penalties on its perpetrators, providing protective measures and support services for its victims, repealing for the purpose Articles 202 & 341 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
	HB 2600	Rep. Acop	Prescribing stiffer penalties for the crimes of delivering prisoners from jail and infidelity in the custody of prisoners, amending for the purpose Articles 156, 223 & 224 of Act No. 3815, as amended	
HB 3166	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Amending Article 152 of Act No. 3815, by including security guards of duly accredited security agencies while on official duty as agents of persons in authority		
HB 3455	Rep. Zarate	Decriminalizing libel, repealing for the purpose Articles 353-357 & 360-362 of Act No. 3815 as amended		

Continuation... Revision of Laws	HB 3722	Rep. Tambunting	Providing stiffer penalties for robbery, theft, and destruction of public property	companies like Grab, Lala Move, and Transportify, which provide customers the convenience of purchasing items from the comfort of their homes. Rep. Taturan said that her bill protects these new common-carriers and service providers against abuses from unprincipled and malicious customers who willfully do not pay the correctly imposed public transportation fees.	
	HB 3775	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Qualifying the killing of members of broadcast and print media in the lawful exercise of their functions as such, as a crime of murder punishable under Article 248 of Act No. 3815, as amended		
	HB 3989	Rep. Suarez (A.)	Amending Act No. 3815, redefining the crime of adultery and concubinage and providing penalties for violation thereof		
	HB 5170	Rep. Lagman	Repealing Article 133 (Offending the religious feelings) of Act No. 3815, as amended		
	HB 5351	Rep. Chipeco	Further amending Articles 29, 97, 98 & 99 of Act No. 3815, as amended (by excluding recidivists, habitual delinquents, escapees, or those who are charged with and convicted of heinous crimes from good conduct time allowance, among other amendments		
	HB 6273	Rep. Yap (E.)	Amending Article 315 of Act No. 3815, to include willful non-payment of correctly imposed public transportation fees as a mode of committing estafa		
	HB 6482	Rep. Guico	Increasing the penalties for criminal negligence involving motor vehicles, amending for this purpose Article 365 of Act No. 3815		
	HB 347	Rep. Romualdo	Repealing Article 891 (<i>Reserva Troncal</i>) of RA 386 or the New Civil Code of the Philippines		The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate and fine-tune the seven bills proposing to amend or repeal certain provisions of RA 386 or the New Civil Code of the Philippines. Camiguin Rep. Xavier Jesus Romualdo was designated as head of the TWG. Rep. Romualdo, author of HB 347, said that there is no need in maintaining the <i>reserva troncal</i> in the existing law, it being "extremely obsolete and out of place in today's world." Rep. Romualdo asserted that it is a hindrance to the development and transferability of property, and unduly complicate the already complex law on succession. In his explanatory note to the bill, Rep. Cabochan stated that the <i>reserva troncal</i> is a special rule designed primarily to assure the return of a reservable property to the third degree relatives belonging to the line from which the property originally came. It is meant to avoid the danger that property existing for many years in a family's patrimony might pass gratuitously to outsiders through marriage and untimely death. With regard to HB 408, Rep. Romualdo, as the bill's author, explained that in this day and age, the Official Gazette, where new laws need to be published prior to their effectivity, should have an
	HB 408	Rep. Romualdo	Amending Article 2 of RA 386, by providing for the publication of laws in the print or online version of the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, as a requirement for their effectivity		
	HB 1426	Rep. Campos	Clarifying the right of married women to retain their surnames, amending for the purpose Article 370 of RA 386		
HB 2691	Rep. Gasataya	Amending Title X, Funerals, Article 305 of RA 386, as amended (by clarifying the right to custody and possession of the cadaver in regard to the final rites or funeral)			
HB 4001	Rep. Dy (F.M.C.)	Changing the definition of "years," amending Section 13 of RA 386 and Section 31 of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987			
HBs 7094 & 7584	Rep. Tambunting	Adjusting the minimum amount for death indemnity, moral, and exemplary damages under RA 386			

Continuation... Revision of Laws				<p>online version so that the people can easily access such information. He noted that more Filipinos have access to and spend much time on the Internet, and that readership of printed newspapers is declining. His bill will allow the publication of new laws not only in the printed version of the Official Gazette but also in its online version.</p> <p>National Printing Office (NPO) legal counsel Rino Geronimo Sagaral stated that the NPO submits to the wisdom of Congress relative to HB 408. He mentioned that the NPO is mandated to print and publish the Official Gazette every week.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 6303	Deputy Speaker Garcia	Transcendent Unified Government Mobile Application (TUGMA) Act	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Deputy Speaker Pablo John Garcia (3rd District, Cebu), approved the draft substitute bill subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee noted the comments and suggestions of the resource persons from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), and the National Privacy Commission, among others.</p> <p>After the discussion on the substitute bill, the DICT gave a technical presentation on the National Government Portal (NGB) which is proposed to be integrated with the TUGMA.</p> <p>The NGP or GOV.PH is a one-stop shop gateway of Philippine government data, information, and services. The single website provides citizens, businesses, and government users access to reliable and efficient online services and information.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Garcia thanked the resource persons for their inputs and their active participation in the TWG meetings. He requested them to submit their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>

Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>