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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture	HB 5907	Rep. Quimbo	Extending the national feeding program to undernourished children in secondary schools thereby amending RA 11037, otherwise known as the "MasustansyangPagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, will deliberate further on HB 5907 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2ndDistrict, Marikina City), author of HB 5907, pointed out the need to broaden the coverage of RA 11037 to include high school as well as kindergarten students in the government's national feeding program.</p> <p>Based on the explanatory note attached to HB 5907, RA 11037 covers public elementary students because 24.5% of school children ages 6 to 10 are stunted (low height for a child's age) while 7.6% of them are wasted (low weight for a child's height). However, in the case of adolescent children, who are in the secondary school, 26.3% of them are stunted while 11.3% are wasted. This shows that the nutritional status of high school students is as alarming as that of the elementary school children and thus, should also be covered by the law. Likewise, children younger than those attending grade school should be included in the law because nutrition needs at the formative years are crucial to preventing incidences of stunted or wasted growth.</p> <p>Citing the statement of the World Health Organization, Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) Senior Research Specialist Noelle Lyn Santos said investing in the health and nutrition of adolescents will benefit the economy in the long run. She explained that school-based nutrition intervention programs will reduce malnutrition and poor health among the children and thus will result in reduced healthcare costs and increased productivity among Filipinos.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were resource persons from the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development, and League of Cities of the Philippines.</p> <p>Likewise, several Members expressed their support for the bill and suggested that the following provisions be incorporated in the proposed measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize the involvement of parents and the community in the feeding program;

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach nutrition education to both parents and child beneficiaries; and • Increase the minimum fund allocation to P25 per child per day for 120 days, for hot meal or alternative meal feeding. <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Romulo requested the DOST-FNRI to submit a copy of its low-cost nutritionally adequate recipes.</p>
HB 6247	Rep. Salceda		Reforming the country's basic education system, amending for the purpose RA 10533, otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to come up with a substitute bill to HBs 6247 and 6415.
HB 6415	Deputy Speaker Marcoleta		Mandating the Department of Education (DepEd) to introduce structural and institutional adjustments into the K to 12 curriculum to achieve greater efficiency and success across all key stages of the program	<p>Rep. Romulo announced that this Committee and the Senate's Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture decided to form a joint Congressional oversight committee that will review the implementation of RA 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 6247, said that his bill seeks to introduce new provisions in the law to emphasize the "quality over quantity" in teaching, prepare K to 12 graduates for both employment and higher education, and ensure that the administration of basic education focuses on improving the learning outcomes of students.</p> <p>To ensure the accuracy, quality, and effectiveness of learning materials, HB 6247 proposes the creation of a Learning Material Development Center (LMDC) that will be attached to the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Education.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo suggested that the provision creating the LMDC be extracted from HB 6247 and be developed into a separate bill to focus on addressing the recurring malady and blunders in DepEd's textbooks and learning materials.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda agreed with the suggestion of the Chair. Thus, a separate substitute bill to HB 6247 will be drafted which will only pertain to the creation of the LMDC.</p> <p>DepEd Undersecretary Tionisito Umali informed the Committee that the DepEd has yet to discuss the proposed creation of the LMDC. He said that DepEd will take into consideration the best possible way by which the Department is able to undertake its mandate effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP), author of HB 6415, said that his bill aims to make improvements or reforms in the K to 12 curriculum in order to achieve greater efficiency and ensure higher chances of employability for students.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture				DepEd Bureau of Learning Delivery Director Lito Palomar expressed support for HB 6415. He, however, said that the Department will review further the provision in HB 6415 which states that “a master’s degree shall be required for new and old teachers alike until a desired ratio or threshold is reached.”
Persons With Disabilities (Special Committee)	HB 7753	Rep. Vargas	Declaring the last full week of September of every year as the "National Week of the Deaf" and September 23 as the "Filipino Sign Language Day"	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Ma. Lourdes Arroyo (5th District, Negros Occidental), approved HB 7753.</p> <p>HB 7753 seeks to declare the last full week of September as the National Week of the Deaf to align it with the International Week of the Deaf, a worldwide initiative since 1958 that is celebrated annually by the global deaf community on the last week of September.</p> <p>Likewise, the bill seeks to declare September 23 as the Filipino Sign Language (FSL) Day to align it with the International Day of Sign Languages which was proclaimed by the United Nations on September 23. The objective of the bill is to instill public awareness of the human rights situation of the Filipino deaf and to promote the FSL as a symbol recognizing the need of the deaf for inclusion.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, Philippine Federation of the Deaf (PFD), and Filipino Sign Language National Network (FSLN2).</p> <p>Dr. Liza Martinez, Filipino sign linguist of the FSLN2 urged that the deaf community be considered not just as guests but partners in the celebration of the National Week of the Deaf and the FSL Day.</p>
	HB 7180	Rep. Arroyo	Providing emergency health grant to persons with disabilities (PWDs) during the COVID-19 crisis, and providing funds therefor	The Committee agreed to refer the two bills to the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to consolidate all bills concerning grants, allowances, subsidies, and discounts to be given to PWDs.
	HB 9243	Rep. Baronda	Granting additional benefits to PWDs, amending for the purpose RA 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, as amended	<p>Rep. Arroyo, author of HB 7180, said that her bill seeks to provide a monthly emergency health grant to PWDs in the amount of P750.00 for 12 months to help cover disability related costs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the “new normal.” She said the emergency health grant intends to supplement the earlier social protection measures implemented by the government in response to the pandemic.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the DSWD, NCDA, Department of Health (DOH), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Advocates of Inclusion (a network of development professionals), and other PWD advocacy groups.</p>

Continuation... Persons With Disabilities (Special Committee)				<p>The NCDA said there is a need to identify the funding source of the proposed measures and to finalize the master list of PWDs in the country in order to determine the budget requirement of the proposed grant.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Bureau-B Assistant Director Jane Abella concurred with the NCDA that the PWD registry should be updated and finalized in order for the DBM to calculate the needed appropriation and assess the availability of funds for the proposed law.</p> <p>Abella added that the Department of Finance must also be consulted on the proposed grant of additional benefits to the PWDs, considering the fiscal implications of the proposed law to the government's coffers.</p>
	HBs 8590 & 9203	Reps. Tambunting and Vargas	Providing for lifetime validity of PWD identification cards issued to persons with permanent disability, further amending for the purpose RA 7277	<p>The Committee agreed to refer the two bills to the TWG that was tasked to consolidate all the bills granting additional privileges to PWDs.</p> <p>The proposed measures seek to allow the issuance of PWD identification cards (ID) with lifetime validity for PWDs with permanent disabilities, duly certified by the Municipal or City Health Office where the PWD resides.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the DSWD, DOH, NCDA, NAPC, PFD, FSLN2, and League of Persons with Disability Affairs Officers of the Philippines (LPDAO).</p> <p>DOH Senior Health Program Officer Ma. Cristina Raymundo recommended that the permanent PWD IDs should still be revalidated every five years to confirm if the PWD is still living and to update any change in the personal information of the PWD. She also informed the Committee that the DOH is currently updating the PWD registry in the country to also include cancer patients.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HB 36	Rep. Biazon	Establishing the Philippine Rise Natural Park in the Province of Isabela as a protected area under RA 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, providing for its management	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), will continue its deliberation on the draft Substitute Bill to HB 36 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon, author of HB 36, said that the proposed law seeks to establish the Philippine Rise (formerly Benham Rise) as a protected natural park for the sole benefit and use of the Philippines.</p> <p>Biodiversity Management Bureau's Coastal and Marine Division Chief Armida Andres</p>

<p>Continuation... Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>commented that the proposed law should only cover the Benham Bank and its surrounding areas of about 352,390 hectares instead of the entire 24 million hectares of the Philippine Rise Region including its extended continental shelf.</p> <p>Andres explained that the other portions of the Philippine Rise including its extended continental shelf are being utilized by Filipino fisherfolk as a source of their livelihood. Thus, she suggested that these areas be classified instead as a marine resource reserve. This way, multiple uses and activities shall be allowed in the area such as fishing and other extractive activities.</p> <p>Under Section 4 of RA 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018), “natural park” refers to a “relatively large area not materially altered by human activity where extractive resources uses are not allowed and are maintained to protect outstanding natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational, recreational use.”</p> <p>Based on the same law, the term “resource reserve” is defined as “an extensive, relatively isolated, and uninhabited area which is difficult to access and is designated to protect the natural resources of the area for future use and prevent or contain development activities that could affect the resources, pending the establishment of sustainable resource utilization goals which are based upon appropriate information and planning.”</p>
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