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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
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| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Appropriations | HB 10373 | Rep. Yap (E.) | Extending the availability of the 2021 appropriations to December 31, 2022, amending for the purpose Section 62 of the general provisions of RA 11518, the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2021 | <p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City), approved House Bill 10373 with amendments. Thereafter, the corresponding Committee Report was also approved subject to style.</p> <p>On behalf of the bill’s author and Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), Rep. Dalipe sponsored the bill and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bill be considered as the author’s sponsorship speech.</p> <p>Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1st District, Northern Samar) remarked that the availability of not only the 2021 appropriations but also the prior year’s appropriations should be extended up to December 31, 2022. He said this is to prevent the budget of programs that have not yet been implemented, such as infrastructure projects particularly in his district, from being reverted to the Treasury. However, he manifested that he will just pursue this matter further during the bill’s deliberation in the plenary.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HB 8137 | Rep. Go (M.) | Expanding the coverage of the tertiary education subsidy, amending for the purpose RA 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act | <p>The Committee approved without amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 8137.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, author of HB 8137, said that his bill seeks to provide funds for poor students who opt to study in private higher education institutions for the reason that there are no nearby state universities and colleges where they reside. He said this is to ensure that access to education will not be compromised especially for the poor.</p> <p>The Commission on Higher Education-Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (CHED-UniFAST) expressed its support for the bill.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 22, 44, 165, 439, 536, 602, 670, 690, 763, 874, 1304, 1366, 1494, | Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Benitez, Belmonte, Deputy Speaker Revilla, Minority Leader Paduano, | Providing for the Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 37 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), Chair of the Committee on Local Government where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law recognizes the significant role of BHWs in delivering health care services to the barangays.</p> <p>Rep. Angelica Natasha Co (Party-List, BHW),</p> |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | 1557, 1787, 2081, 2700, 3159, 3276, 3291, 3355, 3487, 3511, 3801, 3985, 4096, 4271, 4395, 4575, 5003, 5026, 5057, 5342, 5496, 6263, 6562 & 6629 | Reps. Acop (dec.), Salo, Quimbo, Biazon, Tiangco, Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Tan (A.), Baronda, Espino, Sy-Alvarado, Panotes, Tan (Shernee), Romualdez (Y.M.), Vargas, Almario, Aragonas, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Co (A.), Defensor, Suarez (A.), Calixto, Deputy Speaker Oaminal, Reps. Olivarez, Agabas, Pimentel, Nieto, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Gaita, and Cabochan | | author of HB 3985, remarked that upgrading the BHWs' incentives and benefits as proposed in the substitute bill is well-deserved by these workers knowing how vital their services are to the communities especially during this pandemic. She also accepted the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the proposed law which will now be stated as: "The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the National Tax Allotment (NTA) of the local government units (LGUs), other local funds, and the special health fund under the Universal Health Care Act." |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 269 & 6857 | Rep. Aglipay and Deputy Speaker Pichay | Establishing standard modern apex hospitals in every region of the country and providing funds therefor | The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 269 and 6857. Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes (Party-List, Senior Citizens) sponsored the substitute bill on behalf of Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4 th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health where the substitute bill originated. He underscored that the proposed law will bring universal healthcare to fruition with the establishment of standard modern apex hospitals in every region. He said this will ensure the country's adequate response, readiness, and resiliency against COVID-19 and other diseases. The Department of Health (DOH) expressed its full support for the substitute bill. |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 378, 390, 907, 1055, 1107, 1391, 1602, 1682, 2684, 2872, | Reps. Zamora (M.), Arroyo, Lagon, Loyola, Deputy Speaker Atienza, Reps. Go (M.), Castelo, Villafuerte, Chipeco, | Granting benefits to octogenarian and nonagenarian Filipinos, and appropriating funds therefor, amending for the purpose RA 10868 or the law honoring and granting additional benefits and privileges to Filipino centenarians | The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 29 bills. Rep. Ordanes sponsored the substitute bill on behalf of the Chair of the Committee on Health where the substitute bill originated. He elucidated that there is a need to amend the law that grants benefits and privileges to Filipino centenarians noting that only a few reach this age. Thus, he averred that the |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | 3098, 3199, 3415, 3526, 4067, 4373, 4895, 4986, 5135, 5382, 5414, 5717, 6360, 6471, 7764, 7991, 8003, 8004 & 9473 | Fortuno, Deputy Speaker Revilla, Reps. Marquez, Zamora (R.), Ty (D.), Delos Santos, Baronda, Yap (E.), Agabas, CaboChan, Tupas, Nieto, Datol (dec.), Abunda, Deputy Speaker Villar, Reps. Tambunting, Sy-Alvarado, Ordanes, and Zubiri | | <p>coverage of the law should be expanded to start with Filipinos who are aged 80, and shall then receive P20,000 every five years. He said this will allow the elderly to get the care they need and add comfort and quality to their daily lives.</p> <p>The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Commission of Senior Citizens expressed their full support for the proposed law.</p> <p>Republic Act 10868 provides that all Filipinos who reach the age of 100 years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with a centenarian gift amounting to P100,000.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 397, 1030, 1667, 2579, 5169, 5217, 5284, 6189, 7343, 8585 & 9242 and HJR 7 | Reps. Erice, Salceda, Biron, Bagatsing, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Nograles (J.F.F.), Castelo, Zamora (M.), Baronda, and Elago | Providing honoraria, allowances, and other privileges to Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials, including the secretary and treasurer, amending for the purpose Section 16 of RA 10742, otherwise known as the SK Reform Act of 2015 | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 12 measures.</p> <p>Rep. Villanueva, Chair of the Committee on Local Government where the substitute bill originated, sponsored the proposed law, and urged for its immediate passage considering the low and outdated compensation rates of SK officials. He also accepted the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 485, 604, 958, 3949, 7101, 7169, 8739 & 8799 | Reps. Deloso- Montalla, Acop (dec.), Salo, Deputy Speakers Abante and Rodriguez, Reps. Vargas, Reyes, and Speaker Velasco | Establishing the National Center for Geriatric Health and Research Institute and regional geriatric specialty centers in the Department of Health (DOH) hospitals under the DOH, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the eight bills.</p> <p>Rep. Ordanes sponsored the proposed law on behalf of the Chair of the Committee on Health where the substitute bill originated. He said the establishment of national and regional geriatric centers will be a true manifestation, and not just lip service, of the government's care for the elderly population of the country. He emphasized that the proposed law is a health care investment that aims to promote and protect the rights and health of senior citizens.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6th District, Manila), author of HB 3949, said he is pleased that the proposed law has reached this far. He explained that he has authored similar bills in the previous Congresses but none of them have been discussed at the level of the Committee on Appropriations. He then urged the immediate passage of the proposed law, which is long overdue, for the benefit of the elderly.</p> <p>Rep. Ordanes and Deputy Speaker Abante accepted the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p> |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | Substitute Bill to HBs 770, 1251, 1893, 1910, 2299, 2520, 2794, 4493, 5374, 5435, 5495, 6799 & 8156 | Reps. Biazon, Villafuerte, Vargas, Castro (F.L.), Castelo, Nograles (J.J.), Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Speaker Velasco, Reps. Zubiri, Olivarez, Ty (D.), Reyes, and Deputy Speaker Villar | Institutionalizing the use of bicycle as an alternative mode of transportation, defining the rights of bicycle riders, establishing appropriate infrastructure and facilities, appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 13 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), co-author of HB 1910, underscored the importance of the proposed law as it would make cycling safer with the establishment of bike lanes and other appropriate infrastructure and facilities. He said this will further promote the use of bicycle as an alternative mode of transportation which is a healthy and environment-friendly option aside from providing a means to escape the traffic congestion in highly urbanized cities.</p> <p>The Department of Transportation expressed its full support for the substitute bill.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HB 3031 | Speaker Velasco | Ordaining the development of the Philippine downstream natural gas industry, consolidating for the purpose all laws relating to the transmission, distribution, and supply of natural gas | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 3031.</p> <p>Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija) sponsored the substitute bill on behalf of Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), Chair of the Committee on Energy where the substitute bill originated. She said the proposed law seeks to develop the Philippine downstream natural gas industry as the country’s ancillary power source considering the worldwide trend of shifting from fossil fuel to renewable natural gas as source of energy. She explained that it will balance the country’s mixed energy resources in the medium and long-term. She also said that the proposed law aims to create a framework that would regulate the country’s natural gas industry.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara accepted the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill, which will now be stated as: “The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.”</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 5609, 5651, 5684, 8295, 8534 & 1239 | Deputy Speakers Alonte and Herrera-Dy, Reps. Aragonés, Villafuerte, and Violago | Strengthening the policies on anti-trafficking in persons, amending for the purpose RA 9208, otherwise known as the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2003, as amended by RA 10364, otherwise known as the Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2012 | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the six bills.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara sponsored the substitute bill on behalf of Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez (Party-List, TINGOG SINIRANGAN), Chair of the Committee on Welfare of Children where the substitute bill originated.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to redefine “trafficking in persons” to include online offenses, such as online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, as among the acts that constitute trafficking in persons.</p> <p>Initially, the Committee proposed that the funding provision will be stated as: “The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The</p> |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | | | | <p>LGUs concerned shall provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in their respective annual budgets.”</p> <p>However, Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City) questioned the constitutionality of the provision saying that the LGUs are granted local autonomy under the Constitution and, therefore, no national law must dictate how the LGUs shall utilize their respective budgets. He recommended the deletion of the last sentence of the proposed funding provision. He instead suggested the inclusion of a provision in the substitute bill, particularly under the section on the role of the LGUs, stating that LGUs are encouraged to grant honoraria to the members of the proposed Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.</p> <p>The Committee on Appropriations adopted the recommendations of Deputy Speaker Rodriguez.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara said she accepts the proposed amendment to the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HBs 5687 & 7778 | Reps. Bernos and Yap (E.) | Establishing the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HBs 5687 and 7778.</p> <p>Rep. Villanueva, Chair of the Committee on Local Government where the substitute bill originated, sponsored the proposed law. He said the bill is truly reflective of the aspirations of the people of Cordillera for regional autonomy.</p> <p>Rep. Go, co-author of HB 5687, stated that providing the Cordillera Region with genuine regional autonomy will allow it to pursue sustainable and inclusive growth through the management, protection, and development of its natural resources, and the promotion of the rights and culture of the Cordilleran people.</p> <p>Due to fiscal constraints, government agencies, such as the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), did not signify their full support for the proposed law and asked that it should be studied further. Thus, the Committee initially proposed to commit the substitute bill to a technical working group (TWG) to thresh out the issues and concerns of these agencies, particularly the DBM.</p> <p>Based on the calculations of the DBM, the proposed law would require significant funding that would amount to at least P84.7 billion or 0.5% of the country's gross domestic product based on the actual</p> |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | | | | <p>collections in 2020. In addition, the CAR will also get a 3% share of the net income of PCSO and PAGCOR, as proposed in the substitute bill, which will affect the financial programming of these two agencies.</p> <p>However, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez objected to the referral of the substitute bill to a TWG. Instead, he recommended that the funding provision should just indicate that the CAR will be entitled to 2.5% share of the national budget and P2.5 billion block grant every year for ten years. He also suggested the deletion of the provision pertaining to the 3% share of CAR in the net income of PAGCOR and PCSO.</p> <p>The Committee agreed with the suggestions of Deputy Speaker Rodriguez.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HB 8210 | Rep. Go (M.) | Mandating the Commission on Higher Education to create a tripartite council to address job-skills mismatch in the country, and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 8210.</p> <p>Rep. Go, author of HB 8210, said that the bill seeks to create a tripartite council that will be tasked to formulate policies and programs specific to addressing job-skills mismatch in the country, so that graduates will be able to land jobs and fully utilize their set of competencies. This will ensure that higher education institutions are responsive to the demands of the rapidly evolving labor market, Rep. Go added.</p> <p>The Committee proposed that the funding provision of the substitute bill be stated as: "The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act."</p> <p>Rep. Go said he accepts the proposed amendment of the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p> <p>The CHED expressed its support for the substitute bill.</p> |
| | Substitute Bill to HB 9157 | Rep. Romulo | Renaming the Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) to National Literacy Council, strengthening its powers and functions, expanding its membership structure and support mechanisms, repealing for the purpose RA 7165, as amended, or the law creating the LCC, and appropriating funds therefor | <p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 9157.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, author of HB 9157, said that the proposed law seeks to reintroduce the LCC as the National Literacy Council (NLC) and strengthen its structure, powers and functions towards improving the basic literacy rate among Filipinos.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo accepted the proposed amendment to the funding provision of the proposed law which will now be stated as: "The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Education (DepEd). Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act."</p> |

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| Continuation... Appropriations | Substitute Bill to HBs 1168, 1172, 1176, 2450, 2564, 3541, 3837, 4759, 4902, 7079, 7268, 7291, 7405, 7567 & 8941 | Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Sy-Alvarado, Castelo, Violago, Majority Leader Romualdez, Reps. Nieto, Villafuerte, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Tambunting, Suansing (E.), Suarez (A.), and Cagas | Providing for a national housing development, production and financing program, regularizing its appropriation for its implementation | <p>The DepEd expressed its support for the substitute bill.</p> <p>The Committee decided to commit to a TWG the Substitute Bill to the 15 bills to address the concerns of the DBM relative to the proposed creation of a National Housing Development and Production Fund which shall receive an amount of P50 billion every year for 20 years.</p> <p>The National Housing Authority expressed its support for the proposed law.</p> |
| Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Transportation | HB 5656 | Rep. Sy-Alvarado | Requiring the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to implement the text/e-mail notification system to promptly inform violators of the no contact traffic apprehension policy | <p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), Chair of the Committee on Metro Manila Development, and Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Western Samar), Chair of the Committee on Transportation, approved the proposed Substitute Bill to House Bills 5656 and 9368. The corresponding Committee report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Lopez said that both bills seek to establish a more effective way of implementing traffic rules. He added that the bills may pave the way for a uniform, synchronized, and effective traffic management system in the country. According to Rep. Lopez, at present, there are various traffic regulations and systems which add up to the confusion and cause unnecessary inconvenience to motorists.</p> <p>Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4th District, Quezon City), who sponsored HB 9368 on behalf of the author, said that the bill aims to refine the existing no contact apprehension policy (NCAP) of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). He manifested that since its launching in 2016, NCAP has been effective in identifying vehicles involved in traffic violation through the use of CCTV cameras and other similar technologies.</p> <p>However, Rep. Suntay said that one issue being raised regarding the implementation of the NCAP is that the traffic violation is tied to the vehicle, and not to the driver, which inconveniences the registered owner of the vehicle who may not be the one actually driving the car at the time of the offense. This is especially the case for public utility vehicles (PUV), which are driven by drivers</p> |
| | HB 9368 | Deputy Speaker Leachon | Regulating the no physical contact apprehension policy in the implementation of traffic laws, ordinances, rules and regulations | |

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| <p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Transportation</p> | | | | <p>or renters other than the owners or operators, he added.</p> <p>To properly identify the erring driver, Rep. Suntay said that the bill requires the registered PUV owner or operator to present to the Traffic Adjudication Board the person actually driving the vehicle at the time and date the traffic violation was committed. (Under HB 9368, any traffic authority implementing the NCAP must have a Traffic Adjudication Board.)</p> <p>The bill also provides that the non-payment of the fines and penalties under the NCAP will not affect the renewal of the vehicle registration and the franchise. However, the driver's license of the erring driver may not be renewed unless the fines and penalties are paid.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Weslie Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City) said that the City of Valenzuela has been implementing the NCAP for three years now. He recounted that the policy was not embraced right away by the people of Valenzuela during its initial implementation. However, realizing the benefits derived from the policy, particularly on road safety, it is now well accepted by the motorists. The Deputy Speaker further said that there has been a noticeable change in the behavior of motorists, as they have become more careful in observing traffic rules in the City.</p> <p>MMDA General Manager Romando Artes said that the MMDA has long been implementing the NCAP and has been in close coordination with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) so that apprehended drivers and vehicles either by physical or no contact apprehension cannot renew their license and car registration, respectively, until fines are paid. He clarified that the MMDA only implements NCAP on major roads like Commonwealth, EDSA, and C-5; while city roads remain under the traffic management of LGUs.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento agreed that road jurisdictions among traffic enforcers, including the LGUs, should be properly identified to ensure that there is no overlapping of duties in the implementation of the NCAP.</p> <p>The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the LTO expressed support for the bills.</p> <p>DOTr Road Sector Senior Consultant Alberto Suansing supported the earlier manifestation of Rep. Suntay that the issuance of notice of violation to erring drivers should be undertaken without delay.</p> <p>LTO Chief of Operations Mercy Jane Paras-</p> |
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| <p>Continuation... Metro Manila Development jt. w/ Transportation</p> | | | | <p>Leynes suggested that the proposed law include a provision which will clearly outline the responsibilities of the PUV operators and the drivers to clearly determine to whom the notice of violation shall be served.</p> <p>League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) Executive Director Ma. Veronica Hitois said that the LCP will still study the bills before giving its official stand on the matter. Nevertheless, she suggested that the nationwide implementation of NCAP needs to be pilot-tested to determine the challenges in and responses from each city.</p> <p>Transport groups Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (PISTON), Provincial Bus Operators Association (PBOA), and the Philippine National Taxi Operators Association (PNTOA) support the objectives of the bill to properly monitor traffic violations and ensure road safety.</p> <p>PBOA Executive Director Alex Yague suggested that fines and penalties imposed on traffic violators should also be uniform across LGUs. He pointed out that PBOA members travel across municipalities and cities, with local governments imposing different fees through their respective local ordinances. Also, he proposed the grant of incentives to drivers who incur no traffic infraction.</p> <p>Meanwhile, PISTON National President Modesto Floranda said that his group will support the bills on the condition that fees or penalties to be imposed will take into consideration the drivers' meager income. He said that penalties and fines can be pegged at a maximum of 10% of the driver's estimated income.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the two bills.</p> |
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