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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Conference Committee	HB 10301 & SB 2152	Rep. Romulo and Sen. Gatchalian	Teacher Education Excellence Act	<p>The Conference Committee will continue its deliberations in another meeting to harmonize the disagreeing provisions of House Bill 10301 and Senate Bill 2152. The bicameral body is co-chaired by four Members of Congress: Reps. Roman Romulo (Pasig City) and Mark Go (Baguio City), the respective Chairpersons of the House Committees on Basic Education and Culture and Higher and Technical Education; and Senators Win Gatchalian and Joel Villanueva, the respective Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture and Higher, Technical and Vocational Education.</p> <p>The proposed law aims to provide and ensure quality education by strengthening the education and training of teachers nationwide through a national system of excellence for teacher education.</p> <p>At the outset, Sen. Gatchalian informed the body that prior to today's meeting, pre-conference committee meetings were held to discuss and thresh out the issues relating to the disagreeing provisions of HB 10301 and SB 2152.</p> <p>Senators Villanueva and Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. thanked the House Panel for its hard work in scrutinizing the provisions of the bills in order to come up with a comprehensive and substantial policy that will have a positive impact on teacher education.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo underscored that improvements in the education and training of teachers will have a corresponding positive effect on the quality of education being offered in the country.</p> <p>After thorough discussions of each section of HB 10301 and SB 2152, the Conference Committee was able to harmonize all the conflicting provisions of the two bills except on one function of the Teacher Education Council (TEC). The Senate bill mandates the TEC to establish the roadmap for teacher education which shall serve as guide for designing relevant, responsive, innovative, creative, and collaborative</p>

Continuation... Conference Committee				<p>programs. The counter proposal of the House Panel was just to state in the bill that "the TEC will initiate, assist, and recommend to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) the formulation of the roadmap".</p> <p>Sen. Gatchalian explained that mandating the TEC to formulate the roadmap was the suggestion of the Department of Education (DepEd). He added that such function is the most important undertaking of the TEC and that it is in line with the bill's objective of instituting reforms in teacher education.</p> <p>However, Rep. Go maintained that CHED should ratify the roadmap that will be prepared by the TEC before it is implemented.</p> <p>As regards the provision of the bill establishing centers of excellence for teacher education nationwide, the Conference Committee agreed that the TEC shall identify and designate these centers from among existing private and public teacher education institutions in the country. The centers shall be monitored, supervised, and regulated by CHED.</p> <p>The Conference Committee also agreed that the appropriation provision of the proposed law will read, in part, as: "The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the DepEd's budget the amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the TEC shall have its own budget in the annual General Appropriations Act as an attached agency of the DepEd."</p> <p>Aside from Reps. Romulo and Go, other House Members present during the Conference Committee meeting were the following: Reps. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3rd District, Camarines Sur), Ruth Mariano-Hernandez (2nd District, Laguna), and Kristine Alexie Tutor (3rd District, Bohol).</p> <p>On the part of the Senate, aside from Senators Gatchalian, Villanueva, and Revilla, Senator Pia Cayetano was also present as one of the conferees.</p>
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