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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Economic Affairs	Substitute Bill to HBs 79, 1310 & 4693	Rep. Salceda, Deputy Speaker Gatchalian, and Rep. Yap (V.)	Strengthening the culture of development planning in the government of the Philippines, creating the Department of Economics and Development Planning, defining its functions, repealing for the purpose EO 230 series of 1987, otherwise known as Reorganizing the National Economic and Development Authority, and Book V, Title II, Subtitle C, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of EO 292 series of 1987, also known as the Administrative Code of 1987, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bills 79, 1310 and 4693. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Garin said that the proposed law seeks to further strengthen NEDA, not just by making it an independent body, but also as a policymaker that has a more substantial influence in the decision making process both at the regional and national levels.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 5906 & 6243	Reps. Quimbo and Garin (S.)	Strengthening the national competition policy, amending for the purpose RA 10667, otherwise known as the Philippine Competition Act	<p>The Committee approved the Substitute Bill to HBs 5906 and 6243. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), author of HB 5906, highlighted the four major amendments to the Philippine Competition Act as reflected in the substitute bill, namely, 1) strengthen the enforcement power of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC); 2) increase the PCC's effectiveness in pursuing its mandate; 3) institutionalize the national competition policy; and 4) clarify the provision pertaining to the review of government incentives.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental), head of the technical working group (TWG) that crafted the substitute bill, highlighted the key provisions of the proposed law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandates national government agencies, offices, instrumentalities, local government units, and government-owned and controlled corporations to promote market efficiency and enhance consumer welfare, review existing policies for any anti-competitive principles and assist the PCC in enforcing competition-related laws and issuances; • Expands the definition of "dominant position" to include "significant market power"; • Upgrades the compensation package for PCC members and personnel; • Limits the tenure of the Executive Director of the PCC to five years, renewable for another five years; • Strengthens the powers and functions of the PCC by expanding the remedies to an entity's anti-competitive conduct that may be applied by the PCC;

Continuation... Economic Affairs				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the procedures for a hybrid-compulsory-voluntary notification regime for mergers and acquisitions (compulsory notification and review for transactions exceeding P50 billion); and • Increases the penalties for anti-competitive behavior by entities. <p>Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas) proposed the inclusion in the powers of the PCC the freezing of accounts or assets of businesses found to have engaged in anti-competitive acts, subject to verification of possible legal implications.</p> <p>PCC Chairperson Arsenio Balisacan recommended the establishment of PCC offices in Metro Cebu and Metro Davao to allow proximity and ease of competition review of businesses and related transactions in the regions.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the proposals of Rep. Mariño and Balisacan.</p>
Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry	Substitute Bill to HB 3071	Rep. Umali (A.)	Establishing the special economic zone in the Municipality of Mansalay, Province of Oriental Mindoro, creating for the purpose the Oriental Mindoro Special Economic Zone Authority and appropriating funds therefor	The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, and Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, approved the Substitute Bills to House Bills 3071, 3898 and 4285. The corresponding Committee Reports were likewise approved.
	Substitute Bill to HB 3898	Deputy Speaker Savellano	Establishing the special economic zone in the Province of Ilocos Sur, creating for the purpose the Ilocos Sur Special Economic Zone Authority, and appropriating funds therefor	At the start of the meeting, Rep. Garin explained that the three bills were approved on February 4, 2020, subject to conformity with the Committee's template for bills establishing special economic zones. She said that the bills were then transmitted to and approved by the Committees on Ways and Means and Appropriations on February 26, 2020 and May 21, 2021, respectively.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4285	Rep. Pimentel	Establishing a special economic zone in the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur, creating for the purpose the Bislig Special Economic Zone Authority, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Thus, in today's meeting, the three substitute bills, as approved by the Committees on Ways and Means and Appropriations, and the corresponding Committee Reports, would be finally considered.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco underscored the importance of creating special economic zones (SEZs) to attract foreign direct investments and stimulate knowledge and technology transfer, thereby spurring economic growth and generating employment for the country.</p> <p>The representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Finance (DOF) objected to the creation of additional SEZs in the country.</p> <p>NEDA Assistant Secretary Greg Pineda explained that NEDA's position is in line with the policy stand of the economic team of the government that a thorough assessment of the cost and benefit and fiscal implications of creating ecozones should be made to ensure that they will be beneficial to the country.</p>

<p>Continuation... Economic Affairs jt. w/ Trade and Industry</p>				<p>DOF Strategy, Economics, and Results Group Director Valery Brion disclosed a 2019 study conducted by the Department which found that tax perks cost the government around P482 billion in foregone revenues, one third of which was in the form of income tax incentives enjoyed by SEZs. She added that the creation of economic zones may be prone to abuse because of the various tax incentives accorded to the locators.</p> <p>Brion said the DOF recommends that, instead of establishing economic zones, a more holistic approach to developing an area may be undertaken which includes building the necessary infrastructure, engaging the local labor force through investments in education and health, and eliminating multi-layered bureaucracy.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go negated the statement of NEDA and DOF that SEZs do not contribute to the local economy. Rep. Go noted that the DOF only takes into consideration the foregone revenues due the national government but fails to consider the positive impact of ecozones on investments and taxes paid by investors, as well as the multiplier effects on wages, consumption, and expenditures, among others. Rep. Go reiterated that the establishment of SEZs will attract more investors, thus generating more income for the country.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Anti-Money Laundering Council expressed support for the passage of the proposed measures.</p>
<p>Labor and Employment</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 7619</p>	<p>Rep. Quimbo</p>	<p>Granting the employees in the private sector the right to designate the bank account to which their wages or compensation may be deposited, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), approved the Committee Report on the Substitute Bill to House Bill 7619 with amendments.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City), author of the bill, accepted the proposal of Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2nd District, Zamboanga del Sur) to include electronic cash (or E-cash) among the forms of payment for wages of employees, as provided for under Section 2 of the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Babasa likewise recommended that the proposed law cover only micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) since it may be difficult and cumbersome for large companies to comply if a large number of their employees will opt for their own banks to which their wages will be deposited, instead of the employers' designated banks.</p> <p>On the contrary, Rep. Quimbo posited that bigger establishments are expected to be in a better position than MSMEs to comply with the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Quimbo emphasized that the primordial objective of the bill is to empower employees and secondarily, to encourage competition among banks in order to lower transaction costs and other miscellaneous fees being charged by them.</p>

Continuation... Labor and Employment	HBs 1261, 1926, 2014, 2094, 5747 & 7106	Reps. Villafructe, Sy-Alvarado, Vargas, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, and Rep. CaboChan	Establishing job placement offices in public high schools to provide career services to the youth	<p>The Committee approved the consolidation of the six bills. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the consolidated bill.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel CaboChan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 5747, said that his bill seeks to establish job placement offices or <i>trabaho centers</i> in public high schools and state universities and colleges (SUCs) around the country to address the problem of unemployment and job mismatch. He added that the bill will enhance the K to 12 curriculum, which provides specialized academic tracks and technical vocational skills to prepare students for employment after high school. Rep. CaboChan further said that the proposed measure will ensure ready and suitable jobs for graduates by strengthening linkages between schools and companies.</p> <p>Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Ana Dione, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) legal counsel Clifford Pascual, and Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) Legal Services Manager Robert Francis Maronilla manifested their support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) National Spokesperson and Policy Advocacy Officer Alan Tanjusay and TUCP Vice President Arthur Juego expressed concern that the bill may send the wrong message to high school students, that they may not pursue college education anymore and just directly join the labor force. Juego instead proposed to just strengthen existing job placement agencies like the Public Employment Service Office (PESO).</p> <p>PESO is a non-fee charging multi-dimensional employment service facility or entity established in all local government units (LGUs), in coordination with the DOLE, pursuant to RA 8759 or the PESO Act of 1999. It aims to ensure prompt and efficient delivery of employment facilitation services as well as to provide timely information on labor market and DOLE programs. (Source: dole.gov.ph)</p>
	HB 4802	Rep. Singson	Extending the maximum allowable period of probationary employment, amending for the purpose PD 442, as amended	<p>The Committee agreed to refer HB 4802 to the Subcommittee on Labor Standards for further study.</p> <p>Rep. Jose "Bonito" Singson Jr. (Party-List, PROBINSYANO AKO), author of HB 4802, said that his bill seeks to extend the maximum prescribed period of probationary employment from 6 to 24 months.</p> <p>Rep. Singson explained that extending the period of probationary employment increases the chances of probationary employees to qualify for regular status while allowing employers to save on labor costs related to the frequent rehiring and retraining of new probationary employees.</p>

<p>Continuation... Labor and Employment</p>				<p>ECOP commented that a 24-month probationary period may just be too long and thus, can be prone to abuse. He admitted, though, that there are certain industries that will welcome a longer probationary period.</p> <p>All Workers Alliance Trade Union (AWATU) National President and TUCP Vice President Temistocles Dejon stressed that the probationary period of two years is exploitive, lulls the employee into a false sense of security, and does not solve the problem of “endo” or “end-of-contract.”</p> <p>Likewise, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Vice Chairperson Lito Ustarez averred that the proposed extension of probationary employment is irrelevant because as it is, the probationary employee is not readily regularized despite a lengthy employment. Ustarez instead advocated for the passage of the Security of Tenure Bill now pending in the Senate.</p> <p>Undersecretary Dione commented that the existing six-month probationary period is already sufficient for the employers to determine the capability and qualification of their employees. She recommended that HB 4802 be studied further.</p> <p>Rep. Singson expressed his willingness to participate in a round table discussion with the labor groups and other stakeholders concerning his bill.</p>
<p>Local Government</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 4517, 8428 & 8682</p>	<p>Reps. CaboChan, De Venecia, and Tambunting</p>	<p>Film and Live Events Recovery Act</p>	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair Rep. Faustino "Inno" Dy V (6th District, Isabela), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bills 4517, 8428, and 8682, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), author of HB 8428 and chair of the technical working group (TWG) that crafted the substitute bill, presented the salient features of the bill, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power of the local governments to levy an amusement tax shall be suspended for two years from the effectivity of the proposed law with an extension of a minimum of two years subject to the approval of the Department of Finance. • The holding of locally-produced operas, concerts, dramas, musical plays, recitals, painting and art exhibitions, flower shows, musical programs, literary and oratorical presentations, and local film productions shall be exempt from the payment of the amusement tax, provided that such local productions have at least 10 percent equity by Filipinos as certified by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPIL) or the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). • The holding of locally-produced pop, rock, or similar concerts shall be removed from the list of events that will

Continuation... Local Government				<p>be exempted from the payment of amusement tax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proceeds from the amusement tax shall be primarily earmarked for programs, activities, and projects in the cultural and creative sectors. The remaining proceeds shall be shared equally by the province and the municipality where such amusement places are located.
	HB 5774	Rep. Bañas-Nogales	Separating the City of General Santos from the First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato to constitute the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City, amending for the purpose RA 11243 or the law reapportioning the First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato, thereby creating the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City	<p>The Committee approved HB 5774.</p> <p>Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales (1st District, South Cotabato), author of HB 5774, said that her bill seeks to introduce amendments to Republic Act 11243 to align the letters of the law with RA 5412 or the Charter of the City of General Santos.</p> <p>Under Section 1 of RA 11243, General Santos City was classified as the Third Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato. However, RA 5412 expressly provides that General Santos City is a lone district that is completely independent from the Province of South Cotabato, particularly with regard to fiscal, administrative, political, and legal standpoints. Likewise, RA 5412 provides that the voters of General Santos City shall not be qualified and entitled to vote in the election of the provincial officials of the Province of South Cotabato.</p>
	HB 9421	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Reapportioning the Second Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato, thereby creating the Third Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato	<p>The Committee approved HB 9421.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez (2nd District, South Cotabato), author of HB 9421, said the bill aims to create a third district in the Province of South Cotabato to ensure proper representation of the growing number of Filipinos living in this Province. The proposed third district will comprise the Municipalities of Lake Sebu, Santo Niño, Surallah, and T'boli.</p>
	HB 8775	Rep. Vargas	Creating a barangay to be known as Barangay North Fairview in the City of Quezon, Metropolitan Manila	<p>The Committee approved HBs 8775 and 8780.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft a substitute bill to the two bills incorporating the relevant suggestions of the resource persons.</p>
	HB 8780	Rep. Vargas	Creating a barangay to be known as Barangay Greater Lagro in the City of Quezon, Metropolitan Manila	
Poverty Alleviation	Substitute Bill to HBs 1813, 2675 & 3601	Deputy Speaker Pacquiao, Reps. Tallado and Garin	Establishing an agricultural pension program for poor agricultural workers	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Dahlia Loyola (5th District, Cavite), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bills 1813, 2675, and 3601. The corresponding Committee Report was likewise approved.</p> <p>The substitute bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Loyola acknowledged the technical working group that crafted the substitute bill. She also said that the authors of the three bills that were substituted have signified their agreement to the substitute bill.</p>

Continuation... Poverty Alleviation				Under the proposed law, an Agricultural Pension Fund shall be established to provide enhanced social protection to poor agricultural workers. The government and the covered agricultural worker will contribute to the fund based on the schedule prepared and prescribed by the Social Security System. However, for those extremely poor agricultural workers, the government will fully subsidize their contributions.
	HB 9166	Rep. Tambunting	Establishing a COVID-19 emergency cash grant to rural farmers and municipal fisherfolk living below the poverty line, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the Committee Report on HB 9166.</p> <p>The bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration of its funding provision.</p> <p>Rep. Loyola underscored the importance of the proposed law during this time of pandemic. She said that the pandemic has adversely affected the farmers and fisherfolk, hence immediate financial aid is necessary to help them recover from the economic hardship they are currently experiencing.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)	HB 1648 & 3794	Rep. Cabochan and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Creating the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), defining its powers, functions and responsibilities, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The joint technical working group (TWG), co-chaired by Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3rd District, Iloilo), Vice Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4th District, Cavite), Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill to the six bills, using House Bill 6973 as the lead bill.</p> <p>Rep. Defensor said that HBs 6973, 7670, 7873, and 8028 seek to create the EPEB within the DENR. He explained that the DENR supports this proposal as the creation of the EPEB will strengthen DENR's environmental law enforcement capacity and its synergy with other agencies which also have environmental law enforcement duties. He said this will allow the DENR to better handle and stop environmental crimes and violations which are becoming more advanced, such as the wildlife and timber trafficking now being transacted online, the transshipment of wastes, and hazardous discharges by polluting industries.</p> <p>Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), author of HB 1648, said he is amenable to the consolidation of his bill with the bills seeking to create the EPEB. HB 1648 seeks to establish the NEPA as an attached agency of the Office of the President which shall be</p>
	HBs 6973, 7670, 7873 & 8028	Deputy Speaker Legarda, Rep. Barba, Deputy Speaker Hernandez, and Rep. Villafuerte	Creating the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), providing for its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor	

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Natural Resources (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>mandated to strictly enforce environmental laws and investigate and prosecute violators of the law.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the creation of the EPEB were the DENR and the Civil Service Commission.</p> <p>In his presentation, DENR Assistant Secretary for Enforcement Daniel Darius Nicer explained to the body that the creation of the EPEB would strengthen the enforcement and regulation of the following laws: Philippine Mining Act of 1995; Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999; Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001; and Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. Hence, Nicer said the passage of the proposed law would address the gaps in the enforcement of these environmental laws and would likewise protect the environmental frontliners.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Jane Hazel Marie Garcia-Doble said the DOJ acknowledges that the enforcement of environmental and natural resources laws, rules and regulations are within the powers and functions of the DENR. However, she expressed reservation on the proposed function of the EPEB which is “to prosecute all violations of environmental and natural resources laws, rules and regulations, including those which other agencies exercise jurisdiction.” She said this function is within the authority of the National Prosecution Service (NPS) of the DOJ.</p> <p>Under the Prosecution Service Act of 2010, the NSP shall be primarily responsible for the preliminary investigation and prosecution of all cases involving violations of penal laws under the supervision of the DOJ Secretary.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills, for the joint TWG’s consideration in drafting the substitute bill.</p>
<p>Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 151</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Marcoleta</p>	<p>Allowing the order of eviction or demolition by the courts only when judgment becomes final and executory, amending for the purpose RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, terminated its deliberation on the seven bills.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to come up with a substitute bill incorporating in it the pertinent recommendations made during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco said that the bill seeks to provide standard mechanism that shall be observed in the conduct of any eviction of informal settlers or demolition of dwellings.</p> <p>In today’s discussion, the TWG used House Bills 4125 and 4241 as the lead bills. Those who gave their inputs and recommendations to the proposed law were resource persons from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), National Housing Authority (NHA), Metropolitan Manila Development</p>
<p>HB 2924</p>	<p>Rep. Castelo</p>	<p>Prohibiting perimeter fencing, securing, and acquiring area of property occupied by informal settlers after a fire while case is pending in court</p>		
<p>HBs 642, 4125, 4241, 6402 & 6542</p>	<p>Reps. Tambunting, Belmonte, Abaya, Vargas, and Nieto</p>	<p>Prescribing a Code of Conduct for eviction/resettlement of underprivileged and homeless citizens and demolition of their dwellings, providing penalties for violation thereof, and appropriating funds therefor</p>		

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Housing and Urban Development (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Authority (MMDA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of the Interior and Local Government, Council for the Welfare of Children, Philippine Commission on Women, League of Cities of the Philippines, and Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal.</p> <p>Among the recommendations made were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the construction of a fence enclosing a private property occupied by underprivileged and homeless citizens after a fire incident or natural calamity if the property is subject of a pending court case; • Require the NHA to provide assistance to underprivileged and homeless citizens whose homes were destroyed by fire or natural calamity; • Designate the PCUP as the central coordinating body in the conduct of eviction and demolition activities involving underprivileged and homeless citizens; and • Mandate the PCUP, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, CHR, and other concerned agencies, to establish a mechanism to protect the children, vulnerable women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities who will be affected by the demolition. <p>On the proposal to prohibit the fencing of a property after a fire or natural calamity, Rep. Tiangco said that this should not be generally construed as allowing the affected informal settlers to again occupy the private property. He likewise manifested that construction of any structure in danger areas should be prohibited.</p> <p>MMDA Investigation Group Acting Chief Nadine Dumlao suggested deleting the provision imposing the penalty of imprisonment for violators of the proposed law. The violators should only be sanctioned administratively, she said.</p> <p>Former PCUP Chairperson Percival Chavez concurred with the suggestion of Dumlao that the offender should be charged administratively rather than criminally. Chavez also suggested that the penalty clause of the proposed law should consider the degree of violations and the corresponding sanctions.</p>
<p>Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 7091</p>	<p>Rep. Crisologo</p>	<p>Further amending RA 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, to strengthen its implementation and strict monitoring of its accessibility, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Committee Secretary Gil Estella, will prepare the substitute bill to the three bills, taking into consideration the comments and suggestions of the Members and the resource persons in today's meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Anthony Peter "Onyx" Crisologo (1st District, Quezon City), author of House Bill 7091, said that his bill seeks to penalize the following: any person who falsifies documents to obtain a PWD</p>
	<p>HBs 8590 & 9203</p>	<p>Reps. Tambunting and Vargas</p>	<p>Providing for lifetime validity of persons with disability (PWD) identification cards issued to persons with permanent disability, further amending for the purpose RA 7277, as amended</p>	

<p>Continuation... Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Identification Card (PWD-IDC) or who is instrumental in the issuance of a PWD-IDC to unqualified person; any person who uses altered or falsified PWD-IDCs; and any unqualified person who uses the PWD-IDC to obtain PWD benefits.</p> <p>Further, Rep. Crisologo said his bill also seeks to extend the validity of the PWD-IDC from three to five years and to categorize the PWD-IDC into two types: 1) apparent and permanent disabilities (neurological, orthopedic, loss of function or absence of a limb and other related disabilities); and 2) non-apparent and permanent disabilities (developmental, psychiatric, visual and hearing disabilities).</p> <p>National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) Executive Director Emerito Rojas expressed his support for HB 7091. He said the proposed penalties in the bill would address the proliferation of inauthentic PWD-IDCs and ensure that the benefits shall only be availed of by qualified beneficiaries. He also agreed that the PWD-IDC should be renewed or revalidated every five years to ensure its integrity.</p> <p>With regard to the provision in HB 7091 that requires PWDs applying for Type 2 category to submit an updated Medical Certificate that states the nature of their disability, duly signed by a doctor specializing in their condition, Rojas said the NCDA has already proposed this to the Department of Health (DOH) and is still awaiting action from the latter.</p> <p>Rep. Dahlia Loyola (5th District, Cavite) supports the provision in HB 7091 that states that “the DOH, in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and NCDA, shall develop a more specific set of qualifications for the applicants of PWD-IDC and create an efficient mechanism for evaluation to ensure the eligibility of applicants.”</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Loyola agreed with the bill's provision which requires an annual review of the existing list of PWD-IDC holders in order to update and ensure the accuracy of the data and profile of beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 4316</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Hererra-Dy</p>	<p>Regulating the application of local charges (at origin and destination) imposed by international shipping lines to comply with existing laws on obligations and contracts and international commercial terminology (INCOTERMS), establishing guidelines therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), will deliberate further on House Bills 4316 and 4462.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said that the two bills seek to regulate the shipping charges imposed by international shipping lines in the country in view of complaints that shipping charges in the Philippines are much higher compared with other countries and that they are being imposed outside the contract. He said that businesses and consumers, who are affected by the exorbitant shipping charges, should be given relief especially at this time of the pandemic.</p>
	<p>HB 4462</p>	<p>Rep. Ong (R.)</p>	<p>Mandating the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to promote fair and transparent destination and other shipping charges among forwarders and agents of international shipping lines</p>	

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Expressing support for the bills were the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Association of International Shipping Lines, Inc. (AISL), Port Users Confederation of the Philippines, Inc. (PUCP), and Global Food Solutions, Inc. (GFSI).</p> <p>NEDA Director Bien Ganapin agreed that the high shipping charges are affecting businesses in the country particularly the small and medium enterprises in the export sector.</p> <p>DTI Assistant Secretary Mary Jean Pacheco said the DTI supports the proposal mandating the MARINA to regulate the charges and fees imposed by international shipping lines in the country. She mentioned that based on DTI's consultations with the shipping industry, one of the latter's recommendations is the passage of a law that will create or designate a regulatory body for international shipping rates.</p> <p>AISL President Patrick Ronas and PUCP Vice President Julita Lopez agreed that MARINA should regulate the shipping and destination charges imposed by international shipping lines.</p> <p>GFSI General Operations Head Phil Young said that other issues apart from the exorbitant shipping charges should also be looked into such as the issue of ships "skipping" their scheduled day of call/arrival in the Port of Manila.</p> <p>Philippine Ship Agents Association Officer Joselito Ilagan explained that ships are sometimes forced to reschedule their arrival in the Port of Manila due to port congestion and in order to not disrupt their scheduled arrivals in other ports.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said the Committee on Transportation will write Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco (Marinduque) and recommend the following: urge President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to address the exorbitant shipping charges being imposed by international shipping lines in the country; and designate MARINA or the Philippine Ports Authority as regulator of the shipping charges.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the two bills.</p>
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