



Committee Daily Bulletin

18th Congress
Third Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs Department

Vol. III No. 38
August 3, 2021

COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	HB 4823	Rep. Aglipay	Providing for a fair and reasonable public utility jeepney modernization program to facilitate transitory assistance to public utility jeepney (PUJ) drivers, operators, and concerned stakeholders, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate the three bills.</p> <p>The author of House Bill 4823, Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay (Party-List, DIWA), was designated as TWG Chair.</p>
	HB 7428	Rep. Lopez (M.L.)	Providing for a just and equitable transition to a modernized public utility vehicle (PUV) sector with transitional support for transport workers	<p>Rep. Aglipay said that his bill proposes the creation of a separate PUJ Modernization Program to enhance the safety, efficiency and sustainability of PUJs and provide reasonable transition and support program for PUJ operators and drivers. At the same time, he said, the bill aims to provide an adequate, efficient, reliable and sustainable PUVs for the safety and comfort of the riding public.</p>
	HB 9587	Rep. Canama	Institutionalizing the public utility vehicle modernization program (PUVMP)	<p>Expressing support for the bills were the Department of Transportation, Department of Trade and Industry – Board of Investments, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.</p> <p>Department of Budget and Management Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Loremee Pereda proposed that initial funding for the proposed law be charged against the current year's appropriation of the implementing agency.</p> <p>The resource persons, including the DBM, were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration in drafting the consolidated bill.</p>

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 9544	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Creating the Philippine Renewable Energy Corporation (PREC), defining its powers and functions, providing funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Committee Vice Chair Rep. Presley De Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA), will deliberate further on House Bill 9544 in its next meeting. The Secretariat was directed to prepare a substitute bill, taking into consideration the comments and suggestions of the Members and resource persons during the meeting.</p>

<p>Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Rep. De Jesus cited the importance of the proposed law as it seeks to accelerate the exploration and development of renewable energy (RE) sources to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. He explained that this will minimize the country's vulnerability to price fluctuations in the international market and mitigate the impact of climate change. The bill creates a corporate body, the PREC, which shall be mandated to promote the development, utilization, manufacture, marketing, and distribution of new renewable, non-conventional, and environment-friendly energy sources and systems.</p> <p>Expressing support for the creation of the PREC were the Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), and PNOC Renewables Corporation (PNOC-RC).</p> <p>DOE Director Mario Marasigan said that while the DOE supports the creation of the PREC, the bill should clarify the types of contracts the PREC would be authorized to enter into. He explained that the DOE has regulatory power over the approval or awarding of RE service contracts, thus he proposed that the DOE maintain this function.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Department of Finance and the Governance Commission for Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) recommended that the proposed law be aligned with Republic Act 10149 (GOCC Governance Act of 2011) particularly with regard to the creation of the PREC as a new GOCC.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), the author of HB 9544, said that he is amenable to the suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3rd District, Leyte) if the existing PNOC-RC will be abolished upon the creation of the PREC, the author confirmed that it will be abolished, otherwise there will be duplication of functions if both corporations will exist.</p> <p>PNOC-RC is a subsidiary of PNOC and the government arm for the development and implementation of sustainable RE and energy efficiency programs.</p> <p>PNOC-RC President and Chief Executive Officer John Arenas said that he supports the abolition of the PNOC-RC if it will bring more benefits to the country through an aggressive RE development and exploration, as proposed in the bill. He explained that the proposed P5 billion budget as initial funding of the PREC will be a big help in pursuing and implementing RE projects.</p>
---	--	--	--	--

Continuation... Energy (Technical Working Group)			<p>Arenas lamented that the PNOC-RC lacks financial support from its mother company, the PNOC. He informed the body that the latter only provided the PNOC-RC with a seed money of P700 million to jumpstart its operations. He said he will submit to the TWG a report on how the PNOC-RC utilized its funds.</p> <p>PNOC President Reuben Lista said the PNOC supports the bill and any decision of Congress regarding the proposed abolition of the PNOC-RC to replace it with the PREC. However, he suggested that the body should look at the mistakes of PNOC-RC, which is now experiencing financial troubles, in order to establish a better PREC.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) recommended that the proposed PREC should also develop hybrid RE facilities or systems to achieve a more efficient and clean energy for the country. He also suggested that the governing board of the PREC should have an electrical engineer, lawyer, and accountant as its members.</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources promised to submit to the TWG its position paper on the bill.</p>
---	--	--	--

AGENCY BRIEFING		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Transportation	Update on the plans, guidelines and protocols of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Health (DOH), and other agencies on the movement of persons and use of public transportation during the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) from August 6 to 20, 2021 in the National Capital Region (NCR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), listened to the presentations of concerned agencies on the guidelines for the movement of persons and use of public transportation during ECQ in the NCR from August 6 to 20.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento cited the impact of the ECQ on the gross domestic product of the country. He said the country is losing P105 billion for each week that the NCR is under ECQ. He also noted that the IATF decided that public transportation will not be restricted during the two-week ECQ.</p> <p>DOTr Undersecretary for Administrative Service Artemio Tuazon Jr. said the DOTr now has the authority to regulate the movement of public transportation during community quarantines, based on the IATF guidelines issued last June. He confirmed that the DOTr will allow the current public transport supply and capacity to be retained in NCR during the imposition of the ECQ. Public utility vehicles (PUVs), such as buses and jeepneys, will operate at 50% capacity on a "one-seat-apart" setup.</p> <p>Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines' Management and Information Systems Division Chief Dante Langkit reported that all commercial airports will be open during the ECQ and both domestic and international flights will also continue. However, Tuazon clarified that restrictions will be applied on passengers wherein only authorized persons outside residence (APORs) shall be permitted to travel.</p> <p>Likewise, Maritime Industry Authority, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson Maximo Bañares Jr. said that only APORs shall be</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>allowed to board ships which shall operate at 50% capacity. He said an advisory to the public will be issued by MARINA soon.</p> <p>Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT 3) Administrative Officer Roda Espejo said MRT 3 will offer free rides to passengers from August 6 to 20.</p> <p>Reps. Gavini "Apol" Pancho (2nd District, Bulacan) and Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) inquired on the status of vaccination of PUV drivers.</p> <p>Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chairman Martin Delgra III said that the LTFRB has sent a letter to the IATF requesting the vaccination of the more than 43,000 public utility jeepney (PUJ) drivers in Metro Manila. However, he said the request was referred to the different local government units (LGUs) where PUJ drivers reside.</p> <p>On the part of the DOTr, Assistant Secretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Mark Steven Pastor reported that the DOTr has launched a vaccination drive last Saturday at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) which aims to cover about 5,000 bus drivers, conductors, and other transport workers. He said this program will continue depending on the vaccine supply from the Department of Health.</p> <p>Rep. Claudine Diana Bautista (Party-List, DUMPER PTDA) talked about the vaccination program being implemented in Davao City for PUV drivers which can serve as guide for others in the conduct of their own vaccination program. She said 15,000 drivers in Davao City already got their first dose out of the target of 20,000.</p> <p>The Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines and JAC Liner, Inc. sought the help of the Committee in encouraging bus drivers to be vaccinated, pointing out that there are still a lot of them who remain skeptical or hesitant to get vaccinated.</p>
	<p>Update by the DOTr and LTFRB on the policy of mandatory use of automated fare collection system (AFCS) in PUVs</p>	<p>The Committee listened to the update of the DOTr and LTFRB on the policy requiring the use of AFCS in PUVs.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento said the AFCS will replace the old ticketing system in public transportation with a contactless-based system using a card with stored value that can be used for fare payments in railways, buses, and other PUVs nationwide.</p> <p>DOTr AFCS Project Manager Randolph Ian Clet said the Department is currently finalizing the AFCS National Standards, a nationwide standard specification for transit fare media and transit readers to ensure interoperability and mutual trust among multiple automatic fare collection players and systems.</p> <p>On the part of the LTFRB, Delgra discussed that the AFCS has become even more relevant in this time of pandemic because the system will deter or lessen the spread of the virus. He said the DOTr has required the participants of the PUV Modernization Program, including cooperatives composed of PUJs, buses, and UV Express, to set up their respective AFCS. The DOTr has already accredited several AFCS providers to date. Delgra also said that there is still a need to integrate all these AFCS into a single format to ensure interoperability.</p>