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| TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES | | | | |
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| COMMITTEE | MEASURES | | SUBJECT MATTER | ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION |
| | NO. | PRINCIPAL AUTHOR | | |
| Energy jt. w/ Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group) | HB 3960 | Rep. Almario | Requiring all franchise grantees using wires and cables in the operation of their businesses to relocate all wires and cables underground or use colored wires and cables to identify their corporation | <p>The joint technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), will deliberate further on the bills in its next meeting.</p> |
| | HB 5845 | Deputy Speaker Herrera-Dy | Mandating all companies, service providers, industries, and other similar entities that use wires and/or cables, especially those that are engaged in the business of providing telephone, cable, internet service, and power supply to the public, to relocate and/or install their wire and cable system underground | <p>The Secretariat was directed to consolidate the two bills and come up with a substitute bill incorporating in it the inputs and recommendations of the Members and resource persons. House Bill 3960 will be used as the lead bill.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara said that HBs 3960 and 5845 seek to mandate all companies, service providers, industries, and other similar entities that use wires and/or cables to install their wires and cables underground in order to clear public spaces of dangled wires and unsafe utility posts. HB 3960 further provides that these companies may opt to use colored cables and wires to identify them easily.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara further said that the objective of the TWG is to craft a legislative measure that will consider the cost and benefits of relocating all wires and cables underground and ensure a reliable, affordable, and efficient service to the consumers.</p> <p>Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (2nd District, Davao Oriental), author of HB 3960, said that his bill seeks to address the existing problem of dangling wires, which have become an eyesore in the community and are compromising public safety. He added that his bill requires the transfer of all the wires and cable underground. However, in consideration of the magnitude of the expenses involved, the bill offers another option which is to color code the wires to identify which company uses which wires.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the proposed law were Party-List Reps. Godofredo Guya (RECOBODA), Presley de Jesus (PHILRECA), and Sergio Dagooc (APEC).</p> <p>Among the government agencies that expressed support for the bills were the Departments of Energy (DOE), Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and Interior and Local Government (DILG); Energy Regulatory Commission; and National Grid Corporation of the Philippines.</p> |

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| <p>Continuation... Energy jt. w/ Information and Communications Technology (Technical Working Group)</p> | | | | <p>On the other hand, most of the representatives from the private sector were not in favor of the bill, due to the huge costs involved.</p> <p>Private Electric Power Operators Association President Ranulfo Ocampo stressed that underground installation of wires and cables is six times more expensive than overhead installation.</p> <p>Likewise, representatives from the Manila Electric Company and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company spoke of the huge amount their companies will have to shoulder in complying with the proposed law.</p> <p>Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives and Philippine Federation of Electric Cooperatives interposed no objection to the bills. However, they suggested that a comprehensive study on the matter be conducted first to determine its feasibility and impact on the stakeholders. Nonetheless, they both agreed that if the government will provide subsidy to the companies that will be affected, the latter might be encouraged to comply with the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Dagooc suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify in the substitute bill the government agency that will issue the regulatory sanctions and enforce the imposition of penalties for violations of the proposed law; • Require telecommunications companies (telcos) to designate an appropriate number of line personnel in their respective service areas for the installation and repair of wires and cables, as well as the removal of their inactive wires. <p>Other comments and suggestions raised during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telcos should not outsource the installation of their wires and cables to ensure that these are properly maintained; • Local government units should assist and coordinate with concerned telcos to discuss how best to solve the unsightly and unsafe dangling wires in their respective jurisdictions. <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their position paper on the bills.</p> |
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Comments, suggestions and requests for copies may be sent to the Committee Publication Staff, Committee Management Support Service I, 3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Bldg., House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, through cmss1.cad@house.gov.ph or at tel. nos. 8932-6118/8931-5001 local 7122. Also available at <http://www.congress.gov.ph>