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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Science and Technology	HR 1611	Rep. Romulo	Commending Gregorio G. Villar III, Genevie V. Yang, and Edward Gonzales for their vital contributions in the safe landing of the Perseverance rover on Mars last February 18, 2021	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Erico Aristotle Aumentado (2nd District, Bohol), adopted House Resolution 1611 subject to style.</p> <p>Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, author of HR 1611, said that his resolution intends to give recognition to Gregorio Villar III, Genevie Yang, and Edward Gonzales for the important role they played in the exploration of space and development of science.</p> <p>According to Rep. Romulo, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Mars 2020 Mission on July 30, 2020 to explore the Jezero Crater on Mars through the Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter. One of the three major components of the mission is the Entry, Descent, and Landing (EDL) of the spacecraft in Mars.</p> <p>Rep. Romulo went on to say that in this mission, Villar was the head verification and validation engineer for the EDL Phase resulting in the safe landing of the Perseverance rover on Mars last February 18. Also, Yang was a member of the team that tested the flight software of Perseverance rover. Meanwhile, Gonzales was the lead engineer of the Electromagnetic Compatibility team that ensures that Perseverance would collect data and transmit the same to earth despite the electromagnetic noise. During the preparations for the Mars 2020 Mission launch, Gonzales tested and ascertained that all the individual subsystems and instruments of the spacecraft and the Perseverance rover would perfectly perform in an electromagnetic environment.</p> <p>Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara lauded the measure. She said that the expertise of Villar, Yang, and Gonzales can help the country so much, particularly the Philippine Space Agency that was established only in 2019 by virtue of Republic Act 11363 or the Philippine Space Act. She expressed the hope that the three will avail themselves of the benefits provided under RA 11035 or the Balik Scientist Act.</p> <p>The law created the Balik Scientist Program which encourages Filipino scientists, technologists, and experts to return to the country and share their expertise for the</p>

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	HB 8152	Rep. Kho (E.)	Establishing a national policy framework for the promotion of animal biotechnology to recognize, foster, and advance its significant health and welfare benefits for animals and humans, providing mechanisms, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on House Bill 8152 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Aumentado said that the country is duty-bound to craft a legislation establishing a national policy framework on animal biotechnology in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Protocol is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. It was adopted on January 29, 2000 and entered into force on September 11, 2003.</p> <p>Rep. Elisa Olga Kho (2nd District, Masbate), author of HB 8152, said that her bill seeks to establish a policy framework on animal biotechnology and create a National Committee on Animal Biotechnology that shall have the mandate to review and integrate existing programs, studies, and recommendations for the establishment of a national framework on animal biotechnology.</p> <p>Rep. Kho added that the bill aims to recognize and advance animal biotechnology in the country citing its global significance and impact on humans as well as on animal health and welfare. It also aims to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and the environment.</p> <p>Expressing support for the intention of the bill were resource persons from the DOST, National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP), National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), and Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines.</p> <p>However, DOST, PCAARRD, and PCHRD suggested that the implementation of the proposed national framework on animal biotechnology be under the ambit of the NCBP. Instead of creating a national committee, they suggested that the NCBP be strengthened and provided support to help it carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>The NCBP was created by virtue of Executive Order 430 in 1990. It was mandated to "coordinate and harmonize inter-agency and multi-sector efforts to develop biosafety</p>

<p>Continuation... Science and Technology</p>				<p>policies in the country and set scientific, technical and procedural standards on actions by agencies and other sectors to promote biosafety in the Philippines.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, NAST’s Agricultural Sciences Division Chair Eufemio Rasco Jr. suggested the integration of the proposed law with HB 3372 which seeks to establish the Biotechnology Authority of the Philippines. Rasco said HB 3372 does not only provide for a regulatory framework on biotechnology but also includes a provision that promotes capacity building in modern biotechnology. (HB 3372 was earlier referred to the Committee on Science and Technology.)</p> <p>Rep. Kho said that she will study the suggestion of NAST.</p> <p>Upon Rep. Kho’s motion, the Committee agreed that the consideration of HB 8152 will be deferred until such time that all inputs of the resource persons have been collected and incorporated in a fine-tuned version of the bill.</p> <p>The resource persons were then requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the proposed law.</p>
<p>Ways and Means</p>	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 9888, 9891 & 9899 and HR 2040</p>	<p>Reps. Castelo, Salceda, Ordanes, and Deputy Speaker Romero</p>	<p>Exempting incentives, rewards, bonuses, and other forms of emoluments received by national athletes and coaches from taxes, amending for the purpose Section 4 of RA 10699 or the National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), approved the Substitute Bill to the four measures, as amended, and the corresponding Committee Report, as revised.</p> <p>The proposed law, also called the “Hidilyn Diaz Act,” seeks to exempt incentives, rewards, bonuses, and other forms of emoluments for national athletes and coaches who compete or win in international sports competitions from all taxes, fees, and charges. Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz is the first Filipino Olympic gold medalist who won in the women’s 55-kilogram weightlifting category in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.</p> <p>The Substitute Bill and the Committee Report was previously approved by the Committee last August 9. But Rep. Salceda said that the bill’s tax provision needs to be refined further by integrating the inputs of the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). As such, the tax provision will now be stated as:</p> <p>“The exemption from donor’s tax and deductibility from gross income provided herein may be availed of within one year before the commencement of the international sports competition wherein the national athlete will compete, as certified by either the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, or the National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines, where the national athletes and their respective coaches are accredited, and within three months after its culmination.”</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means	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 (NCGHRI) and Regional Geriatric Specialty Centers in hospitals under the Department of Health, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes (Party-List, Senior Citizens), author of House Bill 9899, said he accepts the amendments to the substitute bill.</p> <p>The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the eight bills.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4th District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health where the substitute bill originated, said the proposed law seeks to establish the NCGHRI which shall serve as the apex and end referral facility for senior citizens and shall be under the direct supervision of the DOH. It also seeks to establish dedicated medical facilities and geriatric specialty centers across all regions and in all government hospitals including the DOH supervised hospitals and those run by local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (2nd District, Zambales) and Deputy Speakers Bienvenido Abante, Jr. (6th District, Manila) and Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), respective authors of HBs 485, 3949 and 7101, said they are amenable to the Committee's recommendations pertinent to the tax provisions of the bill.</p> <p>As amended, the bill's tax provision will now be stated as:</p> <p>"All donations, endowments, contributions, grants, and bequests used actually, directly and exclusively for and in accordance with the purposes and functions of the NCGHRI shall be exempt from donor's tax, and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (NIRC), as amended."</p> <p>The Committee also recommended the inclusion in the tax provision of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NCGHRI shall be exempt from income tax and customs duty subject to the provisions of the NIRC, as amended, and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act; and • The NCGHRI may avail of the tax expenditure subsidy being granted by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) subject to the provisions of the NIRC, Executive Order No. 93, and the General Appropriations Act. <p>Executive Order 93 expanded the powers of the FIRB which include the formulation and submission to the President, for approval, of a complete system for the grant of subsidies to deserving beneficiaries, in lieu of or in combination with the restoration of tax and duty exemptions or preferential treatment in taxation, in order that the requirements of</p>
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Continuation... Ways and Means				national economic development may be met more adequately.
	Substitute Bill to HBs 1495, 1771, 3253, 4082, 5344, 5585 & 6429	Reps. Tan (A.), Villafuerte, Sy-Alvarado, Espino, Lara, Noel, and Bascug	Institutionalizing a Philippine Cacao Development Program, creating for the purpose the Philippine Cacao Industry Council, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to the seven bills.</p> <p>Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (1st District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law will institutionalize the policies and programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) relating to the development of the cacao industry. It will also establish the Philippine Cacao Industry Council, to be attached to the DA, which will have the mandate of engaging stakeholders in the promotion and development of the cacao industry to ensure a harmonized implementation of the Philippine Cacao Industry Roadmap.</p> <p>Rep. Tan, author of HB 1495, said that she is amenable to the Committee's recommendation on the tax provision of the substitute bill pertaining to exemption from donor's tax, which follows the same format as the one in the substitute bill creating the NCGHRI.</p> <p>The DOF supported the tax provision of the substitute bill.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 6863	Rep. Bañas-Nogralles	Creating the General Paulino Santos International Airport Authority, transferring existing assets of the General Santos Airport to the Authority, vesting the Authority with powers to administer and operate the General Paulino Santos International Airport (GPSIA), and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the tax provision of the Substitute Bill to HB 6863.</p> <p>Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogralles (1st District, South Cotabato), author of HB 6863, cited the need to create a body, the General Paulino Santos International Airport Authority, which will be tasked to manage and administer the operations as well as to make plans for the development of the GPSIA. She said the airport is strategically located and will serve as the country's gateway to the subregional trade block of the East ASEAN Growth Area. She added that it is envisioned to become a premiere world-class airport with a complex suitable for the eventual establishment of an aerotropolis or an "airport city."</p> <p>Rep. Bañas-Nogralles said she is amenable to the Committee's recommendation on the tax incentive provision of the substitute bill, which states that registered businesses within the GPSIA may avail of the tax incentives, subject to the provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the NIRC, as amended.</p> <p>The Committee did not consider the tax provision of the substitute bill which exempts the Authority from the payment of real property tax, considering that such tax is being imposed by the LGUs and is therefore within the purview of the Committee on Local Government.</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				DOF's Strategy, Economics, and Results Group Director Valery Joy Brion objected to the substitute bill, citing issues of redundancy and fiscal burden given that the proposed Authority will be attached to the Department of Transportation (DOTr). The GPSIA is already being managed by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, also under the DOTr. On the tax incentive provision of the substitute bill, she also recommended that it should be aligned with Title XIII of the NIRC.
	Substitute Bill to HB 8616	Rep. Cueva	Converting the Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology in Sagay City, Province of Negros Occidental, into a state university to be known as the State University of Northern Negros, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the three substitute bills. Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education where the substitute bills originated, said the tax provisions of the three bills comply with the standard format on the exemption from customs duties of imported books and publications that will be used by the schools.
	Substitute Bill to HB 8630	Rep. Barba	Establishing the National College for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in New Clark City, Municipality of Capas, Province of Tarlac, and appropriating funds therefor	The BIR expressed its support for the tax provisions of the three substitute bills.
	Substitute Bill to HB 9321	Rep. Deloso-Montalla	Establishing a College of Medicine in the President Ramon Magsaysay State University-main campus in the Municipality of Iba, Province of Zambales, to be known as the President Ramon Magsaysay State University-College of Medicine, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 9958	Rep. Salceda	Exempting the emergency procurement of medical supplies and devices for COVID-19 prevention, control, and treatment from taxes, fees, and charges	The Committee held preliminary deliberations on HB 9958 while awaiting the referral of this bill to the Committee. In the meantime, the Secretariat was instructed to draft a substitute bill to HB 9958 and other bills with similar subject matter, for the Committee's consideration once HB 9958 has been formally referred to the Committee. Rep. Salceda, author of the bill, emphasized the urgency of his proposed measure which aims to aid in the country's fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He said his bill provides, among others, that donations for the containment or mitigation of COVID-19 being undertaken by the government or any of its political subdivisions, and private entities, shall be exempt from donor's tax beginning January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023. He also informed the body that a similar measure, HB 9858, was filed by Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte, Jr. (2 nd District, Camarines Sur), which also seeks to exempt from donor's tax the donation of vaccines, critical products, essential goods, equipment or supplies needed to contain and mitigate COVID-19.

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