



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Third Regular Session

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 8547 & 8671	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez and Rep. Nuñez-Malanyaon	Standardizing the retirement benefits of justices, judges, and judiciary officials conferred with judicial rank, salary, and privileges, amending for the purpose RA 910, as amended by RA 9946, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, presided by its Vice Chair, Rep. Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga City), approved the Substitute Bill to House Bills 8547 and 8671.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 8547, said that the proposed law seeks to grant judiciary officials with judicial rank, salary, and privileges, the same retirement benefits as those being received by the Justices of the Supreme Court, Sandiganbayan, Court of Appeals, and Court of Tax Appeals and Judges of regional, municipal, metropolitan and other similar courts. He also stated that the funding for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current year's savings of the Judiciary.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 61, 171, 665 & 4899	Reps. Yap (V.), Tan (A.), Salo, and Nieto	Establishing the Philippine electronic health or eHealth system and services in support of universal health care and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the four bills.</p> <p>Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), author of HB 171 and Chairperson of the Committee on Health where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law seeks to establish an eHealth system that will provide wide access to real time quality healthcare information and services. She said this will ensure an equitable access to healthcare services especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>According to Rep. Tan, the proposed eHealth system will cover all existing health care providers whether public or private, and include all other eHealth solutions, services, and applications in the field of health as well as ancillary services that utilize information and communication technology (ICT) and complement existing minimum modalities or standards of health care. Further, she said the Department of Health (DOH) shall be the lead implementing agency. But an eHealth Policy and Coordination Council will also be created to serve as an independent body that will promote and provide relevant policies and guidelines for the effective coordination and implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>Regarding the appropriation provision of the substitute bill, Rep. Tan said that she is amenable to the proposed amendments of the Committee on Appropriations. The appropriation provision will be stated as: The amount</p>

Continuation... Appropriations				<p>necessary for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the proposed law's continued implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p>
	<p>Substitute Bill to HBs 444, 738, 1432, 2020, 4075, 4179, 4356, 4366, 4391, 4962, 6604, 7298, 7299, 7317 &amp; 7607</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker Revilla, Reps. Biazon, Campos, Vargas, Bernos, Cabochan, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, Reps. Go (E.C.), Garcia (J.E.), Deputy Speakers Legarda and Romero, Rep. Garin (S.), and Deputy Speaker Gatchalian</p>	<p>Providing the national energy policy and regulatory framework for the use of electric vehicles and the development of the electric vehicle industry and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the 15 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar), Chair of the Committee on Transportation, said that the use of electric vehicles (EVs) will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and will also increase the flow of investments into the country with the incentives to be granted under the bill. (The Committee on Transportation was one of the three Committees which jointly considered the substitute bill before it was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.)</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Weslie Gatchalian (1<sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), author of HB 7607, added that the objective of the proposed law is to create a national policy and framework to encourage the uptake of EVs both in the public and private sector. He explained that the proposed law mandates all gasoline stations as well as private and public establishments to have designated parking areas for EVs; and requires all designated EV parking areas to have charging stations. It also provides for the creation of green routes exclusive for public EVs; inclusion of domestic EV manufacturing in the government's Investment Priorities Plan; and tax exemption for the purchase of EVs.</p> <p>Likewise, Rep. Sarmiento and Deputy Speaker Gatchalian gave their support to the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p>
	<p>Substitute Bill to HB 573</p>	<p>Rep. Gasataya</p>	<p>Strengthening the mental health services of state universities and colleges (SUCs) and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 573.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education where the substitute bill originated, said that the proposed law seeks to promote mental health care among college students through the recruitment, hiring, and training of three additional university-based mental health professionals or psychiatrists for each state university or state college.</p> <p>Rep. Go also said that he is amenable to the amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill which will now be stated as: The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the SUCs. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the proposed law's continued implementation shall be included in the GAA.</p>

Continuation... Appropriations	Substitute Bill to HBs 1100, 1464, 3056, 3885, 4572 & 6409	Rep. Salo, Deputy Speaker Yu, Reps. Babasa, Umali, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, and Rep. Acop (dec.)	Converting the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) into Provincial Science and Technology Office in every province and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the six bills.</p> <p>Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), author of HB 1100, said that the proposed law seeks to upgrade and strengthen the existing PSTC of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), established in every province, by converting it into the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) in order to fast-track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas. He said this will bridge the gap between the highly urbanized cities and provinces as the PSTO shall ensure the enhancement and development of technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, author of HB 4572, added that the proposed law also seeks to upgrade the rank of the present heads of the PSTC from senior research specialist to director with a salary grade of 26, upon the conversion of the PSTC to PSTO.</p> <p>Rep. Salo and Deputy Speaker Rodriguez said that they are amenable to the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill, which will now be stated as: The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the DOST. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the proposed law's continued implementation shall be included in the GAA.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 3255, 4199, 4552 & 5060	Reps. Silverio, Romualdo, Deputy Speaker Santos-Recto, and Rep. Agabas	Providing for the establishment of a <i>Timbangan ng Bayan</i> Center in all markets nationwide, amending for the purpose Chapter 11 of RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to the four bills.</p> <p>Navotas City Rep. John Reynald Tiangco, Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry where the substitute bill originated, said the proposed law seeks to mandate the local government units (LGUs) to establish a <i>Timbangan ng Bayan</i> Center in all markets nationwide, public or private, including flea markets or "tiangges." He explained that instruments for determining weights and measures shall be available and accessible to anyone in the markets so that customers may verify the accuracy of the quantity and measurement of the products that they purchase. He underscored that providing a centralized weighing scale will protect the consumers from deceptive and unfair sales acts and practices and shall promote and encourage fair, honest, and equitable relations among parties in consumer transactions.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco said he is amenable to the proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill which will be stated as: The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of the LGUs.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 3740	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Expanding enterprise-based education and training (EBET) and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 3740.

Continuation... Appropriations				<p>Rep. Go, as Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education where the substitute bill originated, discussed the objectives of the proposed law. He said the bill seeks to enhance the middle-level workforce of the nation by establishing a national EBET system and standards that will ensure the students/trainees' acquisition of the right competencies in an environment where their rights and safety are protected. He said this will help meet the demands of the economy for well-trained manpower. Further, Rep. Go said the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Board shall set the overall policy for EBET.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the funding provision of the substitute bill were acceptable to Rep. Go. The funding provision will now be stated as: The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the TESDA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the proposed law's continued implementation shall be included in the GAA.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HB 5808	Rep. Villa	Assisting young athletes by providing programs and incentives for their development and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved with amendments the Substitute Bill to HB 5808.</p> <p>Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III (5<sup>th</sup> District, Isabela), Chair of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development where the bill originated, said that the proposed law seeks to grant young athletes financial incentives to encourage them to undergo training or participate in ongoing athletic programs of the national or local government or any education institution and sports club. The purpose is to develop and hone their skills at the earliest stages of their exposure to certain sports. Further, Rep. Go said incentives will also be given to local sports and recreation organizations catering to young athletes to assist them in improving their facilities.</p> <p>The Committee on Appropriation recommended that the necessary funding for the initial implementation of the proposed law shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the proposed law's continued implementation shall be included in the GAA.</p> <p>Rep. Dy said that he accepts the recommendations of the Committee relative to the funding provision of the substitute bill.</p>
<b>Energy</b>	HR 1776	Rep. De Jesus	Inquiry into the overreach of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) in the screening, selection and appointment of general managers of electric cooperatives and to revisit, define and review NEA's mandate, powers and functions on that purpose	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Pampanga), terminated its inquiry pursuant to House Resolution 1776.</p> <p>The Secretariat was instructed to draft the Committee Report on HR 1776 for review of the Members.</p>

<p>Continuation... Energy</p>				<p>At the outset, Rep. Arroyo reminded the resource persons to stick to the agenda, particularly on the alleged overreach of the NEA in the screening, selection and appointment of general managers of electric cooperatives (ECs). He said that any personal comment outside the agenda will not be tolerated, thus ensuring the conduct of orderly proceedings. Rep. Arroyo also said that the Committee aims to identify the issues relevant to the resolution and come up with appropriate legislative actions that will be beneficial to all.</p> <p>Based on HR 1776, the position of general manager (GM) in Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) has been vacant since April 2020. Two applicants vied for the said position, and these are BENECO Assistant GM Melchor Licoben and Presidential Communications Operations Office Assistant Secretary Anna Marie Rafael. Both applicants were screened, interviewed, and qualified for the position of GM. However, the NEA Board of Administrators (NEA-BOA) only endorsed Rafael to the BENECO.</p> <p>Rep. Presley de Jesus (Party-List, PHILRECA), author of HR 1776, noted that the Committee requested from NEA a copy of the minutes of the final interview and other pertinent documents relative to its evaluation of the two candidates for GM. But the NEA failed to submit these documents.</p> <p>Committee Secretary Melanie Añain informed the body that the Committee received a letter from the NEA-BOA stating that it cannot submit the documents requested because no such documentation was made during the meeting. The NEA-BOA also stated that the documents being requested are confidential in nature and are covered under the Data Privacy Act.</p> <p>Rep. Arroyo expressed the view that the Committee's request is not covered by the Data Privacy Act because the documents will be used in an inquiry in aid of legislation. He asserted that the Committee can issue a subpoena <i>duces tecum</i> directing the NEA-BOA to submit the requested document; and should it continue to defy the Committee, the intervention of the courts may be sought.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC), co-author of HR 1776, inquired on what policy or issuance NEA followed in its selection of GM of ECs.</p> <p>NEA Institutional Development Department (IDD) Manager Nollie Alamillo replied that the agency adheres to NEA Memorandum 2017-035 issued in 2017. The Memorandum pertains to the revised policy on the selection, hiring, termination of service or suspension of GMs of ECs.</p> <p>However, Alamillo refused to answer whether both GM applicants possess all the required</p>
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<p>Continuation... Energy</p>				<p>qualifications as specified in the Memorandum because he is not authorized to divulge confidential information on the matter. He explained that the IDD has already submitted its recommendation and the matter is now in the hands of the NEA-BOA.</p> <p>Meanwhile, BENEKO Board President Esteban Somngi said that the endorsement of Licoben to the GM position, upon the retirement of the late former GM Gerardo Versoza, was part of the succession plan of BENEKO.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Godofredo Guya (Party-List, RECOBODA), NEA-BOA Alternate Chair and Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Emmanuel Juaneza confirmed that the NEA-BOA received the BENEKO Board Resolution that rejected the endorsement of Rafael to the GM position. Thus, the NEA-BOA sought the legal opinion of the NEA Legal Services Office and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) on the matter to determine whether the actions and decisions of the NEA-BOA stand on legal grounds.</p> <p>Reading from the opinion of the OGCC, Juaneza said that NEA is authorized and empowered to supervise the management of all electric cooperatives, noting that they are subject to the police power of the State as they are holders of legislative franchises and their business is imbued with public interest.</p> <p>Likewise, Juaneza cited Republic Act 10531 or the National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013, particularly the section on "Fit and Proper Rule." This section provides that the NEA shall "prescribe, pass upon, and review the qualifications of individuals appointed and elected to ECs and disqualify those unfit" to ensure that the management and operations of ECs are carried out with due regard to their economic viability. The same section also provides that the candidate's integrity, experience, education, competence, and probity shall be considered in determining whether he or she is fit and proper to become a director or officer of the EC.</p> <p>Upon the request of Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon City), Juaneza walked the body through the process followed by the NEA-BOA relative to its endorsement of Rafael. Juaneza recounted that the names of applicants Rafael and Licoben, together with pertinent documents, were submitted to the NEA-BOA by the IDD for the final interview process. He recalled that immediately after the interview, the panel submitted to the NEA-BOA corporate secretary the accomplished score sheets, who then referred it back to the IDD for tabulation and evaluation. The NEA-BOA endorsed to the BENEKO the candidate who garnered the higher score, who was Rafael.</p>
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Continuation... Energy				<p>Rep. De Jesus inquired on why the BOA endorsed only Rafael when paragraph 2 (h) of NEA Memorandum 2017-035 specifically provides that “the list of applicants who passed the NEA Board final interview, with necessary information and results of the Background Investigation, shall then be transmitted to the EC Board for perusal and selection.”</p> <p>In reply, Juaneza explained that the said provision does not prohibit the NEA-BOA from endorsing the one with the highest score in the final interview.</p> <p>Not convinced by this explanation, Rep. De Jesus manifested that “there is indeed a deliberate attempt, and not just negligence, on the part of NEA-BOA to ignore the procedural tenets” of existing regulations. This, he said, “is clearly a grave abuse of discretion and should be meted with the strongest legal action possible.”</p> <p>As a final note, Committee Vice Chair Rep. Jericho Jonas Nograles (Party-List, PBA), who took over as presiding officer during the start of the interpellation, clarified that “it is not the job of Congress to determine with finality any violation or wrongdoing or mete out any punishment in this specific issue.”</p> <p>Nevertheless, Rep. Nograles said that it is the job of Congress and the Committee to determine whether this is just an isolated incident or whether this incident might again occur and affect all other ECs in the future, thus a new law may be needed. He added that this is the reason why the Committee conducted this inquiry to determine if NEA indeed went beyond its powers in the selection of EC general managers; and if there was such an overreach, to determine whether the flaw is in the structure itself or whether certain individuals have abused their discretion.</p>
<b>Government Reorganization</b>	HB 579	Deputy Speaker Villanueva	Creating the National Independent Commission Against Corruption and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas), will deliberate further on House Bill 579 in another meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño said that the primary purpose of HB 579 is to formulate and pursue a national anti-corruption plan. The proposed National Independent Commission Against Corruption (NICA), which will be attached to the Office of the Ombudsman, shall be tasked to implement and coordinate policies for the prevention, control, and elimination of corruption at all levels of government.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño also said that the Committee would like to determine if the proposed NICA will duplicate the functions of existing government agencies already undertaking programs against corruption.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva (Party-List, CIBAC), author of HB 579, said that</p>

<p>Continuation... Government Reorganization</p>				<p>the proposed law seeks to create the NICA which shall be the policy-making, coordinating, and monitoring body of the government in its anti-corruption program. NICA is patterned after the world-renowned Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption, which transformed Hong Kong into one of the world's "cleanest governments" from once a bureaucracy where corruption was endemic. The proposed law aims to adopt Hong Kong's three-pronged approach in the battle against corruption, namely: investigation and prosecution; corruption prevention; and citizens' education.</p> <p>Baguio City Rep. Mark Go and Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) expressed support for the proposed law.</p> <p>Rep. Dagooc suggested that the proposed NICA should be represented in the public biddings of government agencies to monitor and ensure that bidding processes are in order and aboveboard. However, so as not to overburden the NICA from attending all public biddings, Rep. Dagooc further suggested that NICA's presence will only be required based on the cost of the project under public bidding, which shall be specified in the bill.</p> <p>Expressing support for the intent of the bill were representatives from the Sandiganbayan, Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), Commission on Audit (COA), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM)</p> <p>However, COA lawyer Gloria Camora and DBM Organization, Position, Classification and Compensation Bureau Director Jocelyn dela Cruz raised the issue on duplication of functions between the proposed NICA and other government agencies like the PACC.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Villanueva clarified that the bill provides that the functions of PACC will be transferred to the proposed NICA. He underscored the importance of having an independent body that will address corruption in the government. At present, PACC is an agency attached to the Office of the President.</p> <p>Rep. Mariño suggested that instead of creating a technical working group to fine-tune the bill, he himself will work on the bill and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Villanueva was amenable to the Chair's suggestion.</p> <p>Hence, the Committee approved the motion of Rep. Go to defer action on the bill until the Chair completed the crafting of the substitute bill. The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on HB 579.</p>
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**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Agrarian Reform</b> (Technical Working Group)	HR 226	Rep. Geron	Investigation into the proliferation of irrigated and irrigable land converted into non-agricultural purpose in violation of Section 65 of RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rico Geron (Party-List, AGAP), will continue its investigation relative to House Resolution 226.</p> <p>Rep. Geron underscored the need to solicit the comments of concerned government agencies and check the facts and figures related to the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands into non-agricultural use. He said the purpose is to determine whether violations were committed in the process of conversion and the steps that need to be undertaken to stop any illegal conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands.</p> <p>Rep. Arlene Brosas (Party-List, GABRIELA) asked for figures on the total area of irrigated and irrigable lands in the country and such agricultural lands that have been converted into non-agricultural uses.</p> <p>National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) Legal Services head Marty Cachapero said that the NIA does not have data on land conversion. What NIA has, he said, is an inventory of all irrigation systems nationwide. He added that it is the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) which has the data on agricultural lands that have been converted into non-agricultural use.</p> <p>DAR OIC-Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Jim Coleto said the DAR will submit to the Committee the data on agricultural lands that were converted into non-agricultural use and other pertinent documents relative to HR 226. He said the DAR is in the process of collating data from other government agencies as well.</p> <p>Representatives from other government agencies which gave their views regarding the issues raised in HR 226 were the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Land Registration Authority. Likewise, the representative from the farmers' group <i>Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan</i> also commented on the resolution.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on HR 226.</p>
<b>Justice</b> (Technical Working Group)	HBs 4312, 5972, 9898 & 9902	Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Olivarez, Yap (E.), and Tambunting	Providing free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police on any charge before the prosecutor's office, court, or any competent body arising from an incident or incidents related to the performance of official duty	<p>The technical working group, chaired by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Rizal), will deliberate further on House Bills 4312, 5972, 9898 and 9902 in its next meeting.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to draft a substitute bill incorporating in it the suggestions of the resource persons.</p> <p>Rep. Nograles said that the proposed law is one of the priority legislative agenda mentioned by</p>

<p>Continuation... Justice (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>the President during his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA). He added that the bill aims to provide free legal assistance to the uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to ease their financial burden when faced with court cases arising from an incident related to the performance of their official duty.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bills were resource persons from the AFP, PNP, Department of Justice (DOJ), Public Attorney's Office (PAO), and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP). They also gave their inputs and recommendations to further improve the proposed law.</p> <p>According to DOJ State Counsel Melvin Suarez, the proposed measure strengthens Republic Act 8551 or the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, as well as supplements RA 7898 or the AFP Modernization Act. These laws do not provide for free legal assistance to AFP personnel, he added.</p> <p>Suarez also mentioned that the PAO can provide free legal assistance to the personnel of the AFP and PNP under RA 9406, which reorganizes and strengthens the PAO.</p> <p>PAO Deputy Chief Ana Lisa Soriano said that her office can provide legal assistance to personnel of the AFP and the PNP provided that they meet the requirements set by PAO. The availment of PAO's legal assistance is on a first come-first served policy, Soriano added.</p> <p>AFP Brigadier General Serme Ayuyao suggested that the proposed law also cover AFP retired officers and personnel who are sued after their retirement but the cases are related to the performance of their duty when they were still in active service.</p> <p>PNP Legal Services Acting Director George Almaden proposed that legal officers should be designated at the city and municipal levels to provide free and immediate legal services to PNP personnel in the localities. He explained that PNP legal officers are stationed only in the PNP's regional and provincial offices.</p> <p>Reps. Nograles and France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS), as well as IBP President Burt Estrada, suggested that the proposed law should specify the requirements for the grant of free legal assistance.</p> <p>The Committee requested the AFP and the PNP to submit a list of the active cases filed against their personnel in the last five years.</p> <p>All resource persons were also requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration in the drafting of the substitute bill.</p>
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<p><b>Social Services</b> (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Bill to HB 4469</p>	<p>Rep. Panotes</p>	<p>Institutionalizing the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Diego “Nonoy” Ty (1<sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), terminated its deliberation on the draft Substitute Bill to House Bill 4469. The Secretariat was directed to incorporate in the substitute bill the amendments made in today’s meeting and to submit the same to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Ty said that the proposed law seeks to make permanent the AICS Program of the DSWD in order to provide a lifeline for Filipinos in crisis. He added that the program will still be a national government program under the DSWD which will serve as a resource augmentation support to the existing social services being offered by local government units.</p> <p>Rep. Marisol Panotes (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Camarines Norte), author of HB 4469, said that her bill is pro-poor, explaining that the permanency of the AICS Program will ensure that marginalized individuals and families needing immediate assistance will continue to receive the necessary services from the government regardless of whoever will govern the country.</p> <p>The TWG discussed thoroughly all the sections of the draft substitute bill and took note of the comments and suggestions of the resource persons from the DSWD, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, National Anti-Poverty Commission, National Council on Disability Affairs, and League of Cities of the Philippines.</p> <p>Among the amendments to the draft substitute bill that were approved by the TWG during the meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include food, transportation, and educational assistance in the list of services that each qualified target beneficiary shall receive under the AICS Program;</li> <li>• Include in the definition of “target beneficiaries” the “financially incapacitated patients” or those who can no longer pay for their medical bills for having been hospitalized for too long due to serious illness. (Under the bill, target beneficiaries refer to individuals or families who are indigent, vulnerable, disadvantaged, or internally displaced persons or in crisis situation based on the assessment of the social worker of the DSWD); and</li> <li>• Add a section on “Unlawful Acts” and the corresponding penalties.</li> </ul>
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