



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 13, 37, 565, 1409, 1894, 2219, 2618, 3446, 3569, 3996, 4141, 4571, 4615, 4652, 5352, 5965, 5967, 6089 & 6438	Reps. Del Mar (dec.), Biazon, Abellanosa, Vargas, Campos, Barba, Albano (A.), Deputy Speakers Santos-Recto and Hernandez, Reps. Agabas, Chatto, Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Peña, Villafuerte, Castelo, Yap (E.), Tambunting, Bagatsing, and Cabatbat	Providing regulation for the operation of motorcycles-for-hire	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar), approved the substitute bill to the 19 bills, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. John Reynald Tiangco (Navotas City), Chair of the technical working group (TWG) that was tasked to craft the substitute bill, said the provisions of the proposed law were extensively discussed in the three meetings of the TWG. He informed the body that the proposed law applies only to motorcycle-for-hire and not to motorcycles directly owned by business entities and used exclusively for delivering goods and services.</p> <p>Rep. Tiangco also enumerated the salient provisions of the substitute bill which include the following: imposition of a maximum speed of 60 kilometers per hour for motorcycles-for-hire subject to the speed limits prescribed under the local ordinances of some localities; mandating the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to be in charge of approving the franchise for motorcycles-for-hire; authorizing the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to conduct the accreditation of transportation network companies; mandating the use of digital platforms for motorcycle-for-hire services; imposition of penalties on the prohibited acts enumerated in the proposed law; and compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and the Consumer Act of the Philippines.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 333, 5222, 5758 & 6217	Deputy Speakers Arenas and Rodriguez, Reps. Sarmiento, and Gonzalez (S.)	Providing for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of international maritime instruments to which the Philippines is a state party	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill to the four bills, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Sandro Gonzalez (Party-List, MARINO), Chair of the TWG that was tasked to craft the substitute bill and also the author of House Bill 6217, said the proposed law reflects the country's commitment to implement and enforce the international maritime instruments to which the Philippines is a state party and in likewise to promote the overall interest of the maritime sector. He informed the body that the TWG agreed that the Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall act as the central maritime administrator that will exercise all powers and functions related to the implementation and enforcement in the country of international maritime instruments.</p>

Continuation... Transportation	Substitute Bill to HBs 4316 & 4462	Deputy Speaker Herrera-Dy and Rep. Ong (R.)	Enhancing the competitiveness of Philippine trade by strengthening the oversight functions of relevant government agencies over the imposition of shipping charges by international shipping lines and institutionalizing mechanism for the efficient movement of goods	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill to HBs 4316 and 4462, and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Ronnie Ong (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO), Chair of the TWG that was tasked to craft the substitute bill and also the author of HB 4462, said that the proposed law will strengthen the oversight functions of regulatory agencies particularly over the imposition of shipping charges by international shipping lines. He said this will address the current situation wherein shipping charges in the Philippines are much higher compared with other countries and that they are being imposed outside the contract.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 2333, 2963, 3281, 4005, 4197, 4212, 4653, 5329 & 5495 and HR 748	Deputy Speaker Escudero, Reps. Espino, Vergara, Agabas, Yap (V.), Vargas, Villafuerte, Panotes, Ty (D.), and Salceda	Providing for a Magna Carta of Tricycle Drivers and Operators, institutionalizing mechanisms for its implementation, regulation, and for other purposes	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill to the ten measures. The substitute bill will be referred to the Committee on Appropriations for review of its funding provision.</p> <p>On behalf of Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., Chair of the TWG that was tasked to craft the substitute bill, Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) explained that the proposed law seeks to nurture and protect the interests of the tricycle drivers and operators by providing them with adequate and timely social, economic, and legal services, as well as instituting mechanisms that will protect their rights and provide benefits to ensure their dignified existence and economic advancement.</p> <p>Rep. Vergara, who is also the author of House Bill 3281, presented the key provisions of the proposed law which include the following: issuance of uniform franchise requirements and procedure as well as uniform technical specifications for tricycle units that will be allowed to operate; establishment of a one-stop shop in all local government units for the registration and issuance of permits to operate tricycles; and the definition of the rights of the members of the tricycle sector including their mandatory membership in the Social Security System and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.</p>
	Substitute Bill to HBs 4286 & 4287	Reps. Pimentel and Deloso-Montalla	Providing for the administrative reform and reorganization of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), revising for the purpose RA 9993, otherwise known as the PCG Law of 2009	<p>The Committee approved the substitute bill to HBs 4286 and 4287. The substitute bill will be referred to the Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means for review of its funding and tax provisions, respectively.</p> <p>Rep. Macnell Lusotan (Party-List, MARINO), Chair of the TWG that was tasked to craft the substitute bill, said that the proposed law seeks to strengthen the PCG through organizational reforms in order to enhance its administration and effectively execute its mandate such as protecting the country's territorial waters and responding to emergencies during natural disasters and pandemics. He said the proposed law outlines</p>

Continuation... Transportation				the organizational structure of the PCG, defines the powers and functions of key PCG officials, provides a framework for an internal disciplinary system in the PCG, and entitles the uniformed personnel of the PCG to the same separation and retirement benefits of their counterpart in the military and the police.
	HB 9468	Rep. Sarmiento	Adopting a 30-year National Transportation Infrastructure Program	<p>The Committee approved HB 9468.</p> <p>Before the bill's approval, Rep. Sarmiento temporarily relinquished his presiding duties to Rep. Tiangco in order to sponsor his bill. According to Rep. Sarmiento, HB 9468 will be advantageous to the country as it will provide a long-term planning and framework for all transportation infrastructure projects of the government regardless of whoever is in power. He said this would lead to a continuous and synchronized implementation of infrastructure projects. Further, he added that his bill proposes the conduct of an audit of transportation infrastructure projects every six years or every time an administration ends.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon) and Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) asked for a copy of the proposed 30-year National Transportation Infrastructure Program upon its completion.</p>
	HBs 6418, 8562, 8563, 8564 & 9267	Reps. Amatong, Gonzalez (S.), and Fariñas (Ria Christina)	Establishing extension/regional offices of the Maritime Industry Authority in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the five bills.
	HBs 8661, 9223, 9462, 9545, 9546, 9585 & 9880	Reps. Defensor (L.), Castro (F.H.), Suarez (D.), Sanchez, Nolasco, and Alvarez (F.)	Establishing/converting district offices of the Land Transportation Office in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the seven bills.
	HB 9429	Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Establishing an international ship port and appropriate facilities in the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Province of Lanao Del Norte to cater to the Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia – Malaysia – Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 9429.</p> <p>Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Lanao del Norte), author of HB 9429, said that the passage of his bill will boost the country's tourism and trade relationship with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other islands in the Celebes Sea.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the Department of Tourism, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Mindanao Development Authority, and Maritime Industry Authority.</p>

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES**

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Subcommittee on House Resolution No. 1781 (Housing and Urban Development)</b>	HR 1781	Rep. Pineda	Inquiry into the alleged discriminatory conduct of homeowners' associations towards foreign nationals residing in subdivisions in the Philippines	<p>The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza (1<sup>st</sup> District, Northern Samar), will deliberate further on House Resolution 1781.</p> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN), author of HR 1781, said that he filed the resolution to inquire into the alleged discriminatory practices by some homeowners' associations against foreign nationals residing in subdivisions. He said the matter should be looked into considering that some foreigners reside in the country to manage their businesses, which provide the much-needed employment to Filipinos especially during this time of pandemic when the economy is adversely affected.</p> <p>During the initial meeting of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development on the resolution, Rep. Pineda specifically brought up the concern of Miao Miao Wang who allegedly experienced discrimination as a resident in Magallanes Village in Makati City. (The Committee eventually referred HR 1781 to this Subcommittee for further deliberations.)</p> <p>Wang, a businesswoman who leased a residential house in Magallanes, told the mother Committee during the said meeting that her vehicle was always flagged down by the security guard manning the gate every time she enters the village even if her vehicle bears the village's car sticker. She also claimed that she was always asked to show her identification card and other personal documents at the village gate to prove her identity. This, despite the fact that she and her husband already submitted all documentary requirements to the lessor and to the village administration office prior to their moving in to the village. Hence, she could not understand why she was constantly being asked by the village security to show the same documents every time she enters the village. In her view, such acts constitute a form of harassment.</p> <p>In today's meeting of the Subcommittee, Magallanes Village Association (MVA) Manager Rosemarie Rasay informed the Subcommittee of the submission of MVA's comments on the resolution including the list of homeowners and tenants whose vehicles were also flagged down due to violations of the rules and regulations of the MVA.</p> <p>Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development's Homeowners Association and Community Development Bureau OIC-Assistant Director Ma. Lorina Rigor explained that if indeed there were violations committed</p>

<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on House Resolution No. 1781 (Housing and Urban Development)</p>			<p>by the lessee, the proper course of action was for the homeowners' association (HOA) to call the attention of the HOA member, and the member should in turn notify and call the attention of the erring lessee. However, Rigor said that the lessee may exercise the rights of the registered member upon the authorization of the latter. Commenting on the specific case of Wang, Rigor opined that there may have been some lapses on the part of the security guards with regard to the implementation of the rules of the homeowners' association.</p> <p>Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Jane Hazel Marie S. Garcia-Doble, while expressing support for the conduct of this inquiry, refrained from making comments on this specific issue as it might be brought up before the Department for proper action.</p> <p>Rep. Daza asked if the equal protection clause embodied in the Constitution only applies to Filipinos or to all who are in the country regardless of nationality.</p> <p>Garcia-Noble opined that it should be applied equally to all. She promised to submit a supplemental position paper to expound on DOJ's stance on this matter.</p> <p>Ayala Alabang Village Association (AAVA) former President Michael Tensuan agreed with Rigor that what happened in the MVA should have been a matter between the association and the member. He said the association should not have directly engaged the lessee since the lease of contract is between the member and the lessee, while the deed of restrictions is between the association and the member.</p> <p>Tensuan also disclosed that the current Board of AAVA issued a memorandum circular disallowing the renewal of lease agreements with tenants from mainland China and the suspension of the issuance of move-in permit to them.</p> <p>Reps. Pineda and Daza criticized and condemned the action of the AAVA for issuing such discriminative policy. They stressed that any form of discrimination is wrong and must not be tolerated.</p> <p>Upon the request of Rep. Pineda, the Committee Secretariat was directed to secure a copy of the subject memorandum and the corresponding guidelines from the AAVA for the perusal of the Subcommittee. The officials from AAVA will also be invited to attend the Subcommittee's next meeting.</p> <p>Representatives of the HOAs of Bel-Air Village, Corinthian Gardens, White Plains, Fifth Valle Verde Village, and Wack Wack Village maintained that their respective rules or deeds</p>
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<p>Continuation... Subcommittee on House Resolution No. 1781 (Housing and Urban Development)</p>				<p>of restrictions are enforced and implemented equally to all.</p> <p>They said that if any property owner violates their associations' rules or restrictions, such as using a purely residential family unit as a warehouse or dormitory, the owner is penalized by the association regardless of nationality. They similarly subscribed to the view of Rigor pertaining to the proper course of action with regard to violations by the lessee of a member homeowner.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective comments and position papers on the measure.</p>
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>Discussion with the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on the increase in the retail prices of petroleum products</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar), will hold an executive session to discuss further the issues raised relative to the increase in the prices of petroleum products and to come up with the solutions that will protect the interests and welfare of both the operators and drivers of public utility vehicles (PUVs) and the commuting public.</p> <p>The president of the transport group <i>Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuser at Operator Nationwide</i> (PISTON), Mody Floranda, lamented that the increase in the prices of petroleum products further adds to the burden of operators who are already experiencing difficulties because of the COVID-19 pandemic wherein PUVs are only operating at 50% capacity. He said the transport sector already submitted a petition to the LTFRB requesting for a fare hike given the continuous rise in the prices of petroleum products.</p> <p>Replying to the query of the Chair on how much the prices of petroleum products have increased throughout this year, DOE Oil Industry Management Bureau Director Rino Abad said that at the start of 2021, the prices of gasoline, diesel, kerosene, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) products were at P41.98 per liter, P32.70 per liter, P40.37 per liter, and P68.73 per kilogram (kg), respectively. To date, he reported that prices have increased to P59.83 per liter, P49.20 per liter, P54.56 per liter, and P88.97 per kg for gasoline, diesel, kerosene, and LPG products, respectively. He said that much of the increase in the prices is attributed to high importation cost. Abad also acknowledged the need to provide subsidy to PUV operators and drivers but this should be discussed with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance.</p> <p>DOTr Assistant Secretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Mark Steven Pastor said the DOTr is coordinating with the DOE and the LTFRB in seeking remedies that will address the plight of PUV operators and drivers. He also informed the body that the DOTr is currently implementing its Service Contracting Program to mitigate the effect of the government's policy limiting the operating capacity of PUVs to only 50% during this pandemic.</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation</p>		<p>Phase 2 of the Service Contracting Program is now being funded under the 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA) in the amount of P3 billion. Under the program, PUV drivers and operators will receive performance-based incentives weekly from the LTFRB based on the number of trips made per week, whether or not they have passengers.</p> <p>With regard to the request for a fare hike by PUV operators and drivers, Pastor stated that this should be evaluated taking into consideration the interest of the riding public.</p> <p>LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III concurred with the statements of Pastor and also requested the continuous implementation of the Service Contracting Program which serves as an equalizer in the plight of both the operators/drivers and the passengers.</p> <p>The DOTr, through the LTFRB, is currently coordinating with the DOE for a possible implementation of Phase II of the fuel/cash subsidy program for PUV operators. LTFRB Technical Division Head Joel Bolano said the LTFRB will submit a proposal to the DOE on the matter, including the budget required and the number of target beneficiaries. According to Bolano, the Phase I of the fuel/cash subsidy called the Pantawid Pasada Program (PPP) was implemented in 2018 and 2019 pursuant to Section 82 of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law. Under this law, the yearly incremental tax revenues generated shall be automatically appropriated to social welfare and benefit programs, which include the distribution of fuel vouchers to qualified franchise holders of Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs).</p> <p>Meanwhile, Reps. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), and Jose “Jun” Ong Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Northern Samar) criticized the implementation of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 (Republic Act 8479) which rendered the government powerless in controlling the prices of petroleum products and in checking the inventories of oil companies. They recommended that the law be revisited and possibly amended to strengthen the regulatory functions of government agencies involved in the energy sector.</p> <p>Abad concurred with the Members, adding that the only power of the government under RA 8479 is to monitor the domestic and international price movement of petroleum products.</p> <p>Rep. Sarmiento recommended the conduct of an executive session to discuss further the appropriate strategies that will be adopted to address the plight of PUV operators and drivers.</p>
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