



Committee Daily Bulletin

19th Congress
First Regular Session

A publication of the Committee Affairs

Vol. I No. 41
November 7, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute bill to HBs 2458 & 4835	Reps. Rodriguez (R.) and Primicias-Agabas	Mandating the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) to select one cadet from each congressional district every year to comprise its incoming class	<p>The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved subject to style and amendment the Substitute Bill to House Bills 2458 and 4835 and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Catanduanes Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez sponsored HBs 2458 and 4835 on behalf of the authors and manifested that the explanatory note attached to the bills be considered as the authors' sponsorship speeches. He also mentioned that similar versions of the bills were already approved in the 17th and 18th Congresses but were left pending in the Senate.</p> <p>The proposed law seeks to mandate the PMMA to select at least one incoming cadet from every congressional district every year to ensure a more balanced composition of every graduating class from the PMMA and to provide aspiring cadets from far-flung areas equal opportunity and a chance to fulfill their dreams of becoming merchant marine and naval officers.</p> <p>PMMA Superintendent Joel Abutal lauded the intent of the proposed law to democratize access to maritime education. He acknowledged that most of the cadets accepted in the Academy come from the National Capital Region and neighboring regions. However, he said that the proposal to admit one cadet per congressional district should be on top of the current allowable number of freshmen being admitted by the PMMA. Thus, he proposed to include an appropriations provision in the proposed law to cover the additional facilities and equipment that will be required with the increase in the number of cadets. He explained that the PMMA is already catering to 850 cadets which is beyond its capacity of 750 cadets.</p> <p>Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) Legal and Legislative Service Director Frederick Mikhail Farolan expressed his support for the bill and echoed the call of Abutal to increase the funding and resources of the PMMA to ensure that there will be no decline in the quality of education offered to the students.</p>
	HB 152	Rep. Cabredo	Establishing the Bicol University - College of Veterinary Medicine in the City of Ligao, Province of Albay and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 152 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.

<p>Continuation... Higher and Technical Education</p>				<p>The bill seeks to establish the Bicol University – College of Veterinary Medicine and produce competitive veterinary medicine graduates equipped with quality skills and competencies. It was filed in recognition of the vital role of veterinary medicine in the country's livestock industry and economic development.</p> <p>Bicol University (BU) President Arnulfo Mascariñas expressed his support for the bill and informed the body that BU has already coordinated with the City of Ligao and visited the proposed site for the College of Veterinary Medicine. He added that the BU already has the faculty complement for the proposed College.</p> <p>Director Farolan and CHED Region V Director Septon de la Cruz expressed their support for the bill provided that the proposed College fully complies with CHED's Memorandum Order No. 1, series of 2018 or the <i>Policies, Standards and Guidelines for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program</i>.</p> <p>Rep. Go assured that the proposed College will meet the requirements of CHED, adding that the adherence to the said Memorandum Order was in fact required under Section 4 (Compliance with CHED Requirements) of HB 152.</p>
	<p>HB 4487</p>	<p>Rep. Lumayag</p>	<p>Creating a district office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in the First Legislative District of South Cotabato to be established in the Municipality of Polomolok, Province of South Cotabato and appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee approved HB 4487 and the corresponding Committee Report subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Isidro Lumayag (1st District, South Cotabato), author of HB 4487, said that his bill seeks to create a TESDA district office in the first legislative district of South Cotabato to make TESDA services and trainings more accessible to the local constituency. He explained that the creation of this district office will largely benefit residents of the municipality of Polomolok and those from the municipalities of Tupi and Tampakan in South Cotabato, who are forced to travel to TESDA offices outside of the district to avail of the latter's services.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were TESDA Provincial Office (South Cotabato) Director Alfredo Panuela Jr. and TESDA – Communities and Local Government Units Service technical staff Jose Descallar. However, they proposed that an appropriations provision be included in the bill to fund the creation and operation of the proposed district office.</p> <p>For her part, TESDA Legal Division lawyer Joyce Balong informed the body of the following requirements to run the proposed TESDA district office: (1) nine plantilla personnel subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management; (2) a building where the proposed district office will be established;</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>and (3) furniture, fixtures and equipment for the operation of the office. She also echoed the proposal of her colleagues in TESDA to include a funding provision in the proposed bill.</p> <p>Rep. Go concurred with the recommendations of TESDA and said that an appropriations provision shall be included in the bill.</p>
	HB 953	Rep. Gonzalez	<p>Establishing a maritime education and training regime, creating a technical committee on maritime education and training, centralizing shipboard training, granting financial assistance to maritime students, modifying the requirements for marine deck/engine officer examination, creating additional training facilities, appropriating funds therefor</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study further the provisions of the bill and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>HB 953 seeks to adopt a modern maritime education and training regime which will, among others, create a maritime strand under the K-12 program and adopt a modular curricula for maritime education and training, with the aim of preparing maritime students for deployment as early as two years into their tertiary education. As such, this will improve the quality of Filipino seafarers, allow them to maximize their earning opportunity, and provide them with options to enjoy the fruits of their labor with their families at a much earlier time.</p> <p>Likewise, the bill aims to create a Technical Committee on Maritime Education and Training under the Office of the President to be headed by the Executive Secretary. The function of this proposed body is to prepare the modern maritime education and training regime in consultation with technical experts in maritime education and training and with maritime employers, consistent with international conventions and other maritime instruments on the qualification of seafarers.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bill were the resource persons from PMMA, National Maritime Polytechnic, and Palompon Institute of Technology.</p> <p>Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific Assistant Vice President Rodolfo Pairo articulated that it will not be strategic to designate the Executive Secretary as head of the proposed Technical Committee as he might not be able to focus on or respond quickly to the concerns of the sector given his huge responsibilities as executive secretary. He also objected to Section 7 of the bill which provides that the management of all shipboard training programs required for the completion of a maritime course shall be centralized and managed by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). He pointed out that this is a function of CHED. He also maintained that a baccalaureate degree should still be required to qualify as an applicant for examination for Marine Deck/Engine Officer as opposed to Section 9 of the bill that no longer requires a baccalaureate degree.</p>

<p>Continuation... Higher and Technical Education</p>				<p>CHED Director Farolan objected to Section 12 of the bill which includes the MARINA Administrator as co-chairperson of the governing boards of state universities and colleges offering maritime programs. He suggested instead that the MARINA Administrator or his/her representative be made a permanent resource person to be consulted by the governing boards on matters regarding maritime education.</p> <p>CHED Maritime Curriculum Review Committee member Alfredo Haboc also expressed his reservation on the bill particularly on the creation of the Technical Committee on Maritime Education and Training. He reasoned that this will only complicate the existing framework for the management of maritime education and training as provided under Republic Act 10635. The law mandates MARINA as the single maritime administration responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, and pertinent international agreements or covenants. (The STCW Convention prescribes the minimum standards relating to training, certification, and watchkeeping for seafarers which member countries are obliged to meet.)</p> <p>Philippine Association of Maritime Institutions President Sabino Czar Manglicmot II concurred with the position of Haboc, adding that the introduction of a new committee or governing body may lead to more confusion. He lamented that many of the problems in maritime education and training are brought about by the inconsistencies in the policies of government agencies involved. He explained that in the last six years, there have been four curriculum changes which posed difficulties for maritime educational institutions that are now left to manage multiple curriculums across year levels.</p> <p>Similarly, Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment Vice President Jose Albar Kato objected to the bill as it will further complicate the existing problems of the maritime education industry. He recommended instead to focus on complying with the requirements under the STCW Convention particularly those identified by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) of the European Union. (Around 40,000 to 50,000 Filipino seafarers working on European vessels are in danger of losing their EMSA certification as the Philippines has not been able to pass the EMSA audit since 2006.)</p>
---	--	--	--	---