



# Committee Daily Bulletin

19<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HB 2158 in consolidation with HBs 155 & 3997	Reps. Bascug, Dagooc, and Villafuerte (L.R.)	Providing for mandatory insurance coverage and benefits for all line workers	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, approved House Bill 2158 in consolidation with HBs 155 and 3997. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Velasco noted that a bill with similar subject matter has been thoroughly discussed and deliberated on during the last Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC), author of HB 2158, sponsored the three bills which he said seek to provide security to all electrical line workers by providing them with insurance coverage and benefits in view of the risks that they face while on the job.</p>
	HB 2157 in consolidation with HB 2611	Reps. Dagooc and Villafuerte (L.R.)	Proclaiming the first Monday of August every year as Linemen Appreciation Day	<p>The Committee approved HB 2157 in consolidation with HB 2611. The Secretariat was directed to prepare the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>A bill similar to the intent of the two bills in the agenda has been thoroughly discussed and deliberated on during the last Congress. Thus, Rep. Velasco sought the immediate approval of the two bills.</p>
	HB 2159	Rep. Dagooc	Establishing the Lineman Training Academy of the Philippines, providing for its powers, structure, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study further HB 2159.</p> <p>Rep. Dagooc, who is also the author of HB 2159, was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>In his sponsorship speech, Rep. Dagooc explained that his bill seeks to establish the Lineman Training Academy of the Philippines to create a pool of skilled workers who can serve in the country's electric power industry and telecommunications companies, citing the current shortage of linemen in the country. He said the Academy shall have its main office in Cebu with satellite offices to be established in every region of the country. Although the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) already offers Lineman Training courses, Rep. Dagooc said his bill seeks to further strengthen these courses.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco informed the body that a similar bill was filed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress but did not get past the Committee on Appropriations</p>

Continuation... Energy				due to lack of material time. He also noted that the bill back then proposed for the Academy to be under the direction and supervision of the National Electrification Administration. On the other hand, he said HB 2159 proposes that it shall be under the TESDA.
	HB 160	Rep. Marcoleta	Limiting the cap of phasing out system losses to consumers, amending for this purpose Section 10 of RA 7832, otherwise known as the Anti-electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to consolidate the four bills.  Rep. Dagooc, author of HB 3431, opined that addressing the high electricity cost in the country necessitates a discussion of the system loss component of the electric bill. He elucidated that system loss is the portion of electricity that is lost during the process of transmission and distribution. He presented some of the key provisions of his bill, as follows: 1) disaggregating the transmission losses from the computation of allowable system loss charge, and 2) setting a percentage of allowable system loss for private distribution utilities (DUs) and electric cooperatives (ECs) which shall be determined and reviewed by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) as often as necessary.
	HB 341	Rep. Fernandez	Amending Section 10 of RA 7832 (by providing that the costs of system losses shall not be chargeable or passed on to the consumers and shall be for the account of the private electric utilities and/or rural electric cooperatives)	
	HB 2100	Rep. Romualdo	Penalizing the illegal use of electricity, the theft and destruction of electric power lines, equipment, and materials, rationalizing system loss, repealing RA 7832	
	HB 3431	Rep. Dagooc	Institutionalizing the rules on system loss cap of electric distribution utilities, amending for the purpose RA 7832 and RA 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001	Furthermore, Rep. Dagooc said the purpose of the proposed law is to develop an incentive mechanism to reward utilities which set their system loss below the approved cap.  Camiguin Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo, author of HB 2100, discussed some issues and concerns specific to his district relative to system loss and said that the proposed law will help address these concerns.  Rep. Velasco apprised the body that the issues on system loss and system loss cap have been discussed by the Committee since the 17 <sup>th</sup> Congress and were resolved by referring the matter to the ERC, which determined the allowable system loss cap for ECs and private DUs. He then asked the ERC to brief the body on ERC Resolution 20, series of 2017 (Resolution Adopting the ERC Rules for Setting the Distribution System Loss Cap and Establishing Performance Incentive Scheme for Distribution Efficiency).  ERC Regulatory Operations Service Acting Director Legario Galang Jr. first gave an overview of the System Loss Principle. According to him, system loss is the “difference between the energy received from the generating plants and the total energy delivered to end-users.” He also said that distribution system loss (DSL), which is unavoidable, is due to technical loss and non-technical loss. “Technical loss refers to the energy which the conductors eat up while coursing through several distribution lines traveling to the end users, while non-technical loss pertains to direct theft and illegal

Continuation... Energy				<p>connection, meter error, and billing irregularity or meter defect,” Galang said.</p> <p>With regard to ERC Resolution 20, Galang stated that the Commission set a new system loss cap that can be recovered and charged by DUs to its customers starting May 2018 billing period. Under the resolution, Galang explained that private DUs, such as the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), shall charge a 6.50% DSL cap for 2018 which shall be gradually reduced annually until it reaches the 5.50% DSL cap level by the year 2021. Meanwhile, ECs shall charge a 12.00% DSL cap in 2018. After that year onwards, ECs shall charge within the range of 12.00% to 8.25% DSL cap.</p> <p>However, Galang reported that in response to an appeal from several private DUs concerning abnormal operations brought about by the pandemic in 2020, ERC issued Resolution 12 in 2021 wherein the DSL cap for private DUs shall remain at the approved 2021 DSL cap of 5.50% until such time that a new DSL cap is promulgated by the Commission.</p> <p>In response to the statement of Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) on the need to update the DSL cap for private DUs, Galang assured her that the ERC has an ongoing study in partnership with the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership and the United Nations Office for Project Services which intends to develop and set new DSL cap for distribution efficiency intended for privately-owned DUs.</p> <p>The Department of Energy (DOE), MERALCO, Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association, and Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. expressed their support for the bills particularly in empowering the ERC to set the allowable system loss rates as often as necessary to take into account the viability of private DUs and ECs and the interest of consumers.</p> <p>DOE Assistant Secretary Mario Marasigan underscored the need to enhance the capacity of the ERC in order to effectively perform this additional function and attain the objectives of the proposed law.</p>
Public Accounts jt. w/ Senior Citizens (Special Committee)	HR 326	Rep. Ordanes	Investigation into the status and operations of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Joseph Stephen “Caraps” Paduano (Party-List, Abang Lingkod), Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts, and Rep. Rodolfo “Ompong” Ordanes (Party-List, Senior Citizens), Chair of the Committee on Senior Citizens, terminated its inquiry relative to House Resolution 326 and the Privilege Speech, both of Rep. Ordanes.</p> <p>Both Reps. Paduano and Ordanes reiterated</p>
	Privilege Speech	Rep. Ordanes	Alleged anomalies, irregularities, and mismanagement in the NCSC	

<p>Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Senior Citizens (Special Committee)</p>				<p>the following allegations against NCSC Chair Franklin Quijano and the Commissioners which were raised during the previous meetings of the Joint Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Quijano, in his capacity as NCSC Chair, appointed a certain Lilia Pinlac to a non-existent position of district director in the Municipality of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, as evidenced by a document to this effect bearing the NCSC logo and signed by Quijano;</li> <li>• That the NCSC failed to honor the Presidential endorsement of Irene Dumlao as executive director of the NCSC despite having sufficient time to act on it before the election ban on appointments was imposed in 2022;</li> <li>• That one of the NCSC Commissioners is not qualified for the position and that he allegedly misrepresented his credentials;</li> <li>• That the NCSC spent P5 million for the unnecessary hiring of consultants to help craft the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11350 or the National Commission of Senior Citizens Act; and</li> <li>• That the NCSC has allegedly deputized organizations to carry out solicitation and collection of personal data of senior citizens nationwide, which raised concerns over the data privacy of concerned senior citizens.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairpersons expressed dismay at the limited accomplishments of the NCSC in terms of providing the much needed services to the elderly during the tenure of Quijano.</p> <p>Rep. Ordanes also pointed out that the appointment of Mila Rodrigo as a director in the NCSC was done in violation of the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) approved Merit Selection Plan, explaining that Rodrigo ranked last in the short list of candidates with a score of seven points lower than that of the top-ranking candidate. He then inquired whether Rodrigo's appointment was approved by the CSC and whether there is a CSC resolution to this effect.</p> <p>In response, Quijano confirmed that Rodrigo's appointment is approved by the CSC and supported by a resolution. He committed to submit a copy of the said resolution to the Joint Committee within one week.</p> <p>Asked why the NCSC proceeded to appoint Rodrigo despite the objection of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), Quijano</p>
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<p>Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Senior Citizens (Special Committee)</p>				<p>explained that the NCSC had to quickly appoint the directors who will head its Selection Board and the Procurement Committee so that the NCSC could already hire personnel and procure the supplies and equipment needed to start its operations.</p> <p>NCSC Commissioner Edwin Espejo added that Sections 8 (Organizational Structure) and 9 (Executive Director) of RA 11350 grant the Commission the authority to appoint its executive director, other officers, and regular employees.</p> <p>Rep. Paduano sought confirmation from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) whether it has opposed the appointment of two NCSC directors – Rodrigo and another one whose name was not mentioned during the meeting.</p> <p>DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said that in their meeting with the NCSC, a clarification was made relative to the authority of NCSC to appoint personnel to Director IV positions.</p> <p>Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party-List, SAGIP) interjected that the CESB has already clarified in a letter whether NCSC has the authority to appoint officers to Director IV positions. In this letter, the CESB cited the explanation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that positions of such nature must be appointed by the President.</p> <p>Rep. Paduano inquired whether the NCSC communicated with the CSC on the need to harmonize the provisions of RA 11350 with existing rules and regulations. Quijano confirmed that the NCSC sought the opinion of the CSC and the latter has responded through a letter accompanied by a CSC Resolution.</p> <p>Rep. Marcoleta said that the letter referred to by Quijano does not contain any confirmation from the CSC relative to NCSC's authority to appoint the positions in question.</p> <p>Replying to the query of Rep. Marcoleta, Quijano said that the NCSC did not deputize any organization or group to solicit or collect personal data from senior citizens. He said that some organizations took it upon themselves to assist senior citizens in their areas who could not accomplish NCSC's online registration forms by themselves.</p> <p>Furthermore, Rep. Marcoleta asked whether the NCSC enlisted the assistance of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) in collecting the personal data of senior citizens, stressing that the necessary safeguards should have been put in place to ensure the proper handling and storage of</p>
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<p>Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Senior Citizens (Special Committee)</p>				<p>these data. To this, Quijano replied that the NCSC has deployed a privacy officer for its online registration portal.</p> <p>Relative to the P5 million spent for the professional services of consultants who helped craft the IRR of RA 11350, Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City) asked the representative from the Commission on Audit (COA) if this was done properly.</p> <p>COA Audit Team Leader Joe Vincent Grisola, citing COA-Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Joint Circular No. 2 series of 2020, presented the following limitations in relation to the hiring of consultants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hiring of personnel under a Contract of Service (COS) shall be limited to consultants, learning service providers, and other technical experts who undertake special projects or jobs within a specific period;</li> <li>• The project or job to be contracted is not part of the regular function of the agency, the expertise is not available in the agency, or it is impractical or more expensive for the government agency to directly undertake the service that may be provided by the contractor; and</li> <li>• COS and Job Order workers should not in any case be made to perform functions that are part of the job description of the agency's existing regular employees.</li> </ul> <p>Asked whether the conditions in the COA-DBM joint circular have been met when the NCSC hired consultants for the crafting of the IRR of RA 11350, Quijano answered that the Commission deemed the crafting of the IRR as a special service. He added that since there were only three Commissioners at that time, they found it necessary to hire professionals who will assist them.</p> <p>Rep. Acop stressed that Section 13 of RA 11350 named various agencies, such as the DSWD, DBM, and Department of the Interior and Local Government, with which the NCSC can consult in the preparation of the IRR. Thus, he questioned NCSC as to why it did not seek the help of these agencies and had to hire consultants for this task instead.</p> <p>Rep. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" Luistro (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Batangas) also commented that the consultants hired were not really highly technical people. She also noted that most of these consultants are under the office of Quijano.</p> <p>The NCSC Commissioners were directed to</p>
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Continuation... Public Accounts jt. w/ Senior Citizens (Special Committee)				<p>submit their respective proof of membership to legitimate senior citizens organizations pursuant to RA 11350. They were also directed to provide the Joint Committee with copies of board resolutions relative to the hiring of NCSC employees.</p> <p>Upon the request of Department of Education Undersecretary Gloria Jumamil-Mercado, the Joint Committee agreed to hold an executive session in relation to her testimony regarding the alleged instances of mismanagement, anomalies, and irregularities in the NCSC.</p>
<b>Public Order and Safety</b>	HB 5634	Rep. Villafuerte (L.)	Regulating the sale, distribution, and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices, providing penalties for violations thereof	The Committee, chaired by Santa Rosa City Rep. Dan Fernandez, referred House Bills (HBs) 5634, 5914 and 6148 to its Subcommittee on Fire Protection Service to deliberate further on the three bills.
	HB 5914	Rep. Gatchalian	Banning the sale, distribution, and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices, providing penalties for violations thereof	The Subcommittee on Fire Protection Service is chaired by Committee Vice Chair San Juan City Rep. Ysabel Maria Zamora.
	HB 6148	Rep. Pleyto	Amending Section 7 of RA 7183 or the law regulating the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices (by requiring firecracker manufacturing establishments to be at least 500 meters away from the nearest residential units, and by requiring their employees/workers to wear appropriate personal protective equipment inside the manufacturing area)	<p>Rep. Salvador Pleyto (6<sup>th</sup> District, Bulacan), author of HB 6148, noted that “the risks brought about by the manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers and pyrotechnics are already public knowledge due to the numerous incidents that happen every year.” Rep. Pleyto said there are at least eight manufacturers of pyrotechnics and five retail establishments operating in his district, and the lack of safety regulations in place endangers both his constituents and the workers in these establishments.</p> <p>Thus, Rep. Pleyto explained that his bill seeks to amend Section 7 of Republic Act 7183 by requiring firecracker manufacturing establishments to be at least 500 meters away from the nearest residential units instead of the 300-meter distance prescribed by law, and by requiring their employees and workers to wear appropriate personal protective equipment inside the manufacturing area.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Customs (BOC), and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) expressed their support for the passage of the proposed law.</p> <p>Dr. Boss Sobremesana of the DOH-Health Promotion Bureau said the bills are in line with the health sector’s strategic thrusts for 2023-2028.</p> <p>Likewise, BFP Chief Superintendent Jesus Fernandez stated that the objectives of the three bills are parallel to the mandates of RA 9514, otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008, and RA 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act, which ensure public safety through the</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety				<p>prevention of destructive fires. He supports the implementation of more stringent regulations on the sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary for External, Legal and Legislative Affairs Juan Victor Llamas asked for more time to study the implications of the three bills.</p> <p>Philippine National Police (PNP) Directorate for Plans Head Major General Bernard Banac promised to submit the position paper of the PNP on the bills.</p> <p>Representatives from the Philippine Fireworks Association and the Philippine Pyrotechnics Manufacturers and Dealers Association gave assurance that they will submit their respective position papers on the bills in a week's time. They also manifested their willingness to take part in the deliberations of the Subcommittee on the bills.</p>
	HB 6200	Rep. Rama	Requiring owners of residential buildings or structures to maintain portable fire extinguishers	<p>The Committee referred HB 6200 to the Subcommittee on Fire Protection Service to deliberate further on HB 6200.</p> <p>Rep. Eduardo Rama (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City), author of HB 6200, explained that his bill aims to abate and suppress fire incidents, especially in highly urbanized cities, by requiring owners of residential buildings or structures to maintain portable fire extinguishers within their premises. Further, he said that his bill requires the assistance of the BFP in identifying fire prone areas in every local government unit. He averred that "government would save more funds by following the preventive approach."</p> <p>The BFP Chief Superintendent expressed his support to HB 6200, stating that it is "high-time that our citizenry be prepared and equipped within their dwelling places with portable fire extinguishers." Fernandez, however, pointed out that mandating the BFP to conduct regular inspection of residential buildings to test the efficiency of portable fire extinguishers, as provided for in the bill, will entail additional manpower and resources.</p> <p>The DILG Undersecretary interposed no objection to the proposed law and manifested that the DILG will submit its written comment on the measure at a later date.</p>
	HJR 11	Speaker Romualdez	Adopting the current structure of the Philippine National Police (PNP) including the pay and allowances of PNP personnel and approving the promotion to the next higher ranks of all third level police commissioned officers designated	<p>The Committee adopted the report of the technical working group (TWG) on HJR 11, subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Likewise, the TWG Report on an unnumbered bill in relation to HJR 11 was approved by the</p>

Continuation... Public Order and Safety			to various positions under the current structure	<p>Committee.</p> <p>Rep. Romeo Acop (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City), chair of the TWG that deliberated on the measure, explained that the TWG found it appropriate to craft and submit a bill as it intends to amend existing laws.</p> <p>Rep. Acop added that the objectives of the draft bill are in line with the issues that HJR 11 seeks to address, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adoption of current PNP structure, including pay and allowances of PNP personnel;</li> <li>• Authority of National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) to reorganize the PNP; and</li> <li>• Promotion of third level police commissioned officers assigned to various positions under the current structure.</li> </ul>
Science and Technology	HBs 635 & 5617	Reps. Salceda and Marquez	Modernizing the National Measurement System of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Carlito Marquez (1 <sup>st</sup> District Aklan), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and harmonize the five bills.
	HBs 722, 1258 & 1900	Reps. Salo, Yu (D.G.), and Yu (J.V.)	Strengthening the National Measurement Infrastructure System, amending for the purpose RA 9236, also known as the National Metrology Act of 2003	<p>KABAYAN Party-List Rep. Ron Salo was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>In his sponsorship speech, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Albay), author of HB 635, said that his bill seeks to standardize and modernize the units and standards of measurements being used in the country in order to adapt to the changing times and to adopt international best practices in response to future developments and requirements. He added that this bill will accord greater consumer protection, transparency, and confidence in measurements.</p> <p>The Department of Science and Technology – National Metrology Laboratory of the Philippines (DOST-NML) supports the bills. Supervising Science Research Specialist Michael Solis pointed out that several government agencies use the national measurement system such as the Departments of Trade and Industry, Environment and Natural Resources, Transportation, Labor and Employment, Health, and Energy, Food and Drug Administration, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, among others.</p> <p>According to Solis, metrology ensures that measurements are accurate, precise, and reliable. He said this is important because people usually do not have the time and means to check the accuracy and reliability of measurements, and that they just trust in the measurements around them. He added that several countries have a national measuring system including Southeast Asian</p>

Continuation... Science and Technology				<p>countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia, and Myanmar.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the bills were the resource persons from the Civil Service Commission, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG's consideration.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Local Government (Technical Working Group)	HBs 632 & 6604	Reps. Zamora (M.C.) and Pimentel	Mandatorily creating the position of the municipal general services officer, amending for the purpose Book III, Title 2, Chapter 2, Section 443 (a) of RA 7160	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rex Gatchalian (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), terminated its deliberation on the three House Bills. The Secretariat will prepare a substitute bill to be presented to the mother Committee for consideration and approval.
	HB 4461	Rep. Tambunting	Creating the position of the municipal general services officer in municipal governments, amending Section 443 (a) and Section 490 (a) of RA 7160	<p>Rep. Maria Carmen Zamora (1<sup>st</sup> District, Davao de Oro), author of HB 632, explained that the creation of a general services officer (GSO) in municipal governments should be made mandatory because under RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, the creation of such position was at the option of the local government units (LGUs). She added that having this position in the municipal government would help facilitate the delivery of services especially those that require the expertise and technical support of a GSO.</p> <p>Under RA 7160, the GSO shall take charge of the office on general services and shall provide the necessary technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor, as the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities. The GSO shall also take custody of and be accountable for all the properties, real or personal, owned by the local government unit.</p> <p>Rep. Wowo Fortes (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sorsogon) expressed his support for the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Budget Information Legislative Liaison Service Acting Chief Nihal Abdulrauf said she will defer to the position of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) on the matter since the funding for the creation of a GSO shall be sourced from the LGUs.</p>

Continuation... Local Government (Technical Working Group)				The Secretariat was directed to obtain the position papers from the ULAP, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) for the consideration of the TWG in drafting the substitute bill.
	HBs 113, 3618 & 5985	Reps. Loyola, Palma, and Unabia	Making the appointment of an environment and natural resources officer mandatory in all provinces, cities and municipalities, amending Section 484 (a) of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991	The TWG agreed to refer the five bills back to the mother Committee for further deliberation.
	HB 426	Rep. Marquez	Institutionalizing the mandatory establishment of an Environment and Natural Resources Management Office in all provinces, cities, and municipalities, amending for the purpose Section 484(a) of RA 7160, as amended	Rep. Gatchalian, who is also the Committee Chair, directed the Secretariat to secure the position papers of the relevant stakeholders prior to the meeting of the Committee on the bills.
	HB 1819	Rep. Villa	Amending Section 463 under Chapter 2, Title 4, Book III of RA 7160 (by mandating the appointment of a provincial environment and natural resources officer	
	HB 2679	Rep. De Venecia	Mandating the creation of an Office of Architectural Planning and Design in municipalities, cities, and provinces, amending for the purpose Sections 38, 185, 227, 302, 443 (a) and (b), 454 (a) and (b), and 463 (a) and (b), 477, and 485 of RA 7160, as amended	<p>The TWG agreed to refer HB 2679 back to the mother Committee for further deliberation.</p> <p>Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan), author of HB 2679, said that his bill seeks to make the positions of provincial, city and municipal architects mandatory, who shall head the office of the architectural planning and design. He explained that the expertise of an architect is vital in the implementation of sustainable and well-designed vertical infrastructure projects of the local government which are needed in the delivery of services, generating revenues, promoting tourism, and attracting investors.</p> <p>As stated in the explanatory note of HB 2679, vertical infrastructures include public schools, hospitals, markets, public housing, capital buildings, and public facilities.</p> <p>Reps. Maria Angela Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bataan) and Danny Domingo (1<sup>st</sup> District, Bulacan) expressed their support for the bill. However, Rep. Garcia said the issue on whether the architecture office should be placed under or separate from the engineering office of the LGU must be resolved.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to gather the position papers of the DILG, DBM, LMP, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Provinces of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Building Officials (PABO), United Architects of the Philippines, Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers.</p>

Continuation... Local Government (Technical Working Group)	HB 4357	Rep. De Venecia	Providing for mandatory appointment of public information officers in LGUs, amending for the purpose RA 7160	<p>The TWG agreed to refer HB 4357 back to the mother Committee for further deliberation.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia, author of HB 4357, underscored the need to make the position of public information officer mandatory. He said the latter played a critical role at the onset of the pandemic in making the available services and assistance known to the constituency. He informed the body that this position is often a job order or merged with other positions in the LGUs, hence the need to make it mandatory.</p> <p>Chair Gatchalian reminded the Secretariat to ensure that all the position papers of the stakeholders are submitted within seven days to allow the Committee the time to study the same.</p>
	HBs 5503 & 5704	Reps. Gatchalian and Magsino	Providing for the mandatory appointment of building official in provinces, cities and municipalities, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	<p>The TWG agreed to refer the two bills back to the mother Committee for further deliberation.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to obtain the position papers of the DILG, DBM, DPWH, PABO, LMP, and LCP.</p>
	HB 5727	Rep. Romualdez (Y.M.)	Institutionalizing the creation of economic and investment promotion officer in LGUs, amending for the purpose RA 7160	<p>The TWG agreed to refer HB 5727 back to the mother Committee for further deliberation.</p> <p>The concerned agencies and other stakeholders were requested to submit within seven days their respective position papers on the bill.</p>
	HBs 1105, 1549 & 1728	Reps. Tan (K.M.), Zubiri, and Mariano-Hernandez	Providing for the mandatory appointment of a nutrition officer in all provinces, cities, and municipalities of the country, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on the three bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to obtain the position papers of the concerned agencies and stakeholders for the TWG's consideration in the next meeting.</p>
	HBs 1727, 2678, 3900 & 4255	Reps. Mariano-Hernandez, De Venecia, Marquez, and Magsino	Making the position of tourism officer mandatory in the municipal, city, and provincial levels, amending for the purpose RA 7160, as amended	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on the six bills upon the submission of position papers from concerned agencies.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia, author of HB 2678, explained that his bill seeks to make the position of cultural and tourism officer mandatory in the provinces and cities, and make it optional for the municipal level. He said such officer will be responsible and accountable for the tourism development of the LGU concerned.</p>
	HBs 1761 & 1820	Reps. Alonte and Villa	Amending Sections 443, 454, and 463 of RA 7160 (by appointing a tourism and cultural affairs officer in every local government unit (LGU))	
	HBs 4606 & 5111	Reps. Rama and Vargas	Mandating the establishment of Persons with Disability (PWD) Affairs Offices in all LGUs, amending RA 10070, or the law establishing institutional mechanism to ensure the implementation of programs and services for PWDs in every province, city, and municipality	<p>The TWG will deliberate further on the two bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Eduardo Rama (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Cebu City), author of HB 4606, said his bill provides for the mandatory establishment of PWD Affairs Offices in all LGUs to facilitate the generation of a cohesive and standardized local database linked to the national registry of PWDs.</p> <p>Advocates of Inclusion's policy development</p>

<p>Continuation... Local Government (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>officer Jennifer Anacio expressed support for the measure. She said the proposed PWD office will provide programs intended for the welfare of the PWDs.</p> <p>On the other hand Abdulrauf expressed her reservation considering the existing National Council on Disability Affairs under the Office of the President. Nevertheless, she suggested seeking the opinion of the Department of Finance – Bureau of Local Government Finance with regard to the funding provision as the latter has a clearer knowledge of the LGUs' income.</p> <p>Rep. Rama suggested to also allow the LGUs to determine the funding that will be allotted for the operations of the proposed PWD Affairs Office.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to obtain the position papers of the Department of Health, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority relative to the possible convergence of these agencies with the proposed office.</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b> (Technical Working Group)</p>	<p>HB 4933</p>	<p>Rep. Herrera</p>	<p>Enhancing the competitiveness of Philippine maritime trade by strengthening the oversight functions of relevant government agencies over the imposition of shipping charges by international shipping lines and institutionalizing mechanisms for the efficient movement of goods</p>	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Jose Alvarez (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Palawan), will deliberate further on HB 4933 in its next meeting.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Alvarez explained that the bill aims to address issues related to the unnecessary costs of transporting or shipping goods and commodities and related logistics services, including origin and destination charges, fuel surcharges, container deposits, and foreign currency adjustments that are imposed by international shipping lines and logistics providers. He added that the bill provides mechanisms to ensure that the imposition of these charges and fees are reasonable and justified, especially those that are not covered by contracts among the ship owners (or their agents), forwarders, and consignees.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were the representatives from the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic and Development Authority, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).</p> <p>On the concern raised by MARINA Administrator Hernani Fabia relative to the budgetary requirement of the bill, Rep. Alvarez suggested that MARINA, being the lead agency tasked to implement the proposed law, should request the necessary funding support from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</p>

<p>Continuation... Transportation (Technical Working Group)</p>				<p>Commenting on Section 5 (Transparency of Freight and Other Charges) of HB 4933, PPA Commercial Services Department Manager Mark Jon Palomar insisted that the regulation of charges and fees imposed by port operators should remain under the jurisdiction of the PPA. Section 5 of the bill mandates port operators, shipping lines, and forwarders to inform the MARINA of their regular shipping charges and fees and publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation.</p> <p>With regard to Section 9 (Container Deposits) of the bill, Palomar averred that container deposits should be refunded in full upon return of the container in good and proper condition, as certified by the shipping line's authorized container yard personnel. Also, the container deposit should not be used to offset the payment of other charges that are collectible by shipping lines, as these charges may be the subject of an appeal or protest by the shipper, Palomar said.</p> <p>For his part, Philippine Liner Shipping Association President Mark Parco suggested that logistics costs should cover not only shipping cost but also port and terminal charges, emphasizing the importance of integrating the costs incurred at the ports.</p> <p>Commenting on Section 7 (Agreements) of the bill, CEZA Legal Division Chief Percival Peralta opined that MARINA should be required to refer to the PCC for appropriate action any agreement between and among international carriers and Philippine port or terminal operators that will likely result in unreasonable reduction in transportation services or unreasonable increase on transportation costs.</p> <p>DTI Supervising Trade and Industry Development Specialist Jonathan Cabaltera said that the bill will address the long-standing issue of unreasonable charges imposed by some international shipping lines. He believes that the best way to curb these illegal practices is through legislation.</p> <p>Other resource persons present were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bill for the consideration of the TWG in its next meeting.</p>
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