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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 639 & 2281	Deputy Speaker Legarda and Rep. Acosta-Alba	Recognizing the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) community conserved territories and areas, establishing for the purpose the National Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) registry, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN), adopted the draft Substitute Bill to HBs 639 and 2281. The bill will be presented to the mother Committee when Congress resumes session in November.</p> <p>The proposed law provides for a system of recognition, registration, protection and promotion of ICCAs. It also prohibits and penalizes the following acts involving the ICCAs: establishment of heavy and extractive industries; construction of major dams, power plants, major roads and bridges; conversion into industrial land and special economic zones; and desecration of these areas, among others.</p> <p>ICCA, as defined in the bill, is “an area within ancestral domains and lands, and parts thereof, that is identified, protected, conserved and sustainably used by ICCs/IPs pursuant to their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices, and in accordance with customary laws and other effective means since time immemorial.”</p> <p>Among the suggestions adopted by the members of the TWG are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed law shall apply to all ancestral domains and lands within national parks or protected areas under RA 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.• No provision in the proposed law, granting or recognizing the rights and privileges of ICCs/IPs in the ICCAs, shall be construed as a diminution of the rights and privileges of ICCs/IPs in non-ICCA areas within the ancestral domains or lands.• The ICCAs shall be governed by the ICCs/IPs in accordance with their customary laws, structures and mechanisms provided that any co-management with or relinquishment of management by ICCs/IPs shall be temporary in nature and subject to regular renewal in accordance with Sec. 58 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and Sec. 13 of the ENIPAS.• The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all claims and disputes involving ICCAs, provided that no such dispute shall be brought to the NCIP unless the parties have exhausted all remedies under their customary laws. When one of the parties is not a member of the ICCs/IPs, indigenous conflict resolution mechanism shall apply.