

Journal of the House of Representatives

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2019 - 2020**

**JOURNAL NO. 31
Tuesday, November 26, 2019**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

JOURNAL NO. 31
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto called the session to order.

INVOCATION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia delivered the invocation and thereafter, the Members sang the National Anthem.

**DEFERMENT OF ROLL CALL
AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

On successive motions of Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll and the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Collantes, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading, the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions, including a Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate committees indicated hereunder:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5556, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REMEDY OF FILING A PETITION FOR CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW THE DECISIONS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION (NLRC), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 223 AND 224 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES' ”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5557, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING THE TEACHING OF ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE K+12 PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5558, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF PAGADIAN IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR AS THE REGIONAL CENTER OF REGION IX - ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA REGION”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5559, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 PARAGRAPH (j) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5560, entitled:

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT AND SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNGSOD SEATS OF THE CITY OF CALOOCAN”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5561, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PACKAGING, USE, SALE, DISTRIBUTION AND ADVERTISEMENTS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE

DELIVERY SYSTEMS, ELECTRONIC NON-NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY
AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5562, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING FOR TRANSPARENCY MECHANISMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5563, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COMELEC OFFICES”

By Representative Bagatsing
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5564, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY FREE SOUP KITCHEN ALLOCATING 3% OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT FOR EVERY IMPOVERISHED BARANGAY IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bagatsing
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5565, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE SERVICE CAPACITY OF THE OSPITAL NG PARAÑAQUE IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA FROM FIRST LEVEL TO SECOND LEVEL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5566, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO OFFICIAL RECORDS, DOCUMENTS AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION OF PUBLIC CONCERN”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaite, Cullamat, Castro (France), Brosas and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 5567, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8498 OR THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL (PSHS) SYSTEM ACT OF 1997 IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE THAN ONE PSHS CAMPUSES WITHIN A REGION”

By Representative Flores
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5569, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5, PARAGRAPH 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003' ”

By Representative Garcia (Pablo John)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5570, entitled:

“AN ACT AUGMENTING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FOR THE SOLICITORS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL BY PROVIDING RETIREMENT, DEATH AND SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Revilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 5571, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NEUST) ACADEMIC EXTENSION CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. DOMINGO, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5572, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE INCOME REQUIREMENT THE CAPITAL TOWN OF A PROVINCE WITHOUT A CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS

AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5573, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT AND COMPENSATION FOR
EDUCATORS IN BASIC EDUCATION”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5574, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL
ROADS FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TO BARANGAY POBLACION, NAMELY:
LAPU-LAPU, OSMENA, MALVAR,
ESTRELLA, MAGSAYSAY, QUIRINO,
MANGA, DALANDAN AND G.P. CRUZ
STREETS, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN,
INTO NATIONAL ROADS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5575, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TWO-
KILOMETER (2-KM.) PROVINCIAL
ROAD FROM SITIO TAPSAN TO SITIO
ROLLING OF BARANGAY PANITIAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE
OF PALAWAN, INTO A NATIONAL
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5576, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL
ROAD FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TO BARANGAY BAGONG SIKAT
CENTER, MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5577, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL
ROAD FROM BARANGAY ESTRELLA
VILLAGE PUBLIC MARKET TO
ESTRELLA VILLAGE NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL, MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5578, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE FIVE-
KILOMETER (5 KM.) PROVINCIAL
ROAD FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY,
KNOWN AS CONTRERAS STREET,
PASSING THROUGH SITIO RACUB
LEADING TO SITIO BUKID-BUKID IN
BARANGAY RIO TUBA, MUNICIPALITY
OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN, INTO A NATIONAL
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5581, entitled:

“AN ACT CODIFYING THE ALTERNATIVE
CHILD CARE LAWS AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda) and
Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5582, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE
ELIGIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT-PAID
PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RENDERED
AT LEAST TWELVE CONSECUTIVE
YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE UNDER
TEMPORARY STATUS”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 541, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO CORRECT THE
CLERICAL ERROR ON THE RESOLUTION

ENTITLED: A RESOLUTION APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO IMPLEMENT ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, THE PROPOSAL OF A 'FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK' ”

By Representative Barzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Resolution No. 542, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUPPOSED VIOLATIONS OF ONLINE LENDING INSTITUTIONS ON THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, ALSO KNOWN AS THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 543, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF MR. JOHN L. GOKONGWEI, JR., A HIGHLY RESPECTED BUSINESS LEADER AND WELL-LOVED PHILANTHROPIST”

By Representative Lagon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 544, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF JOHN LIM GOKONGWEI JR.”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 545, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO AVERT THE WORSENING CRISIS IN THE RICE INDUSTRY AND AMELIORATE THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR FARMERS DUE TO UNIMPEDED IMPORTATION OF RICE”

By Representative Cabatbat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 546, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION’S IRRIGATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE IRRIGATION NEEDS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR”

By Representative Enverga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation (Committee Report No. 91), re H.R. No. 551, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO ADDRESS SALIENT CONSIDERATIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF THE LAW IN THE PROMULGATION OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) ACT' ”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 402

Sponsor: Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative Collantes acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Rep. Florencio G. Noel.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 3:12 p.m., the session was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 3:25 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Mujiv S. Hataman presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Collantes then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon and David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 5 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 78

On motion of Representative Collantes, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78 contained in Committee Report No. 5 as reported out by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PUBLIC SERVICE ACT', AS AMENDED.”

Representative Collantes stated that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and upon her motion, there being no objection, the Body recognized Rep. Sharon S. Garin, chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, and Representative Suarez (D.) for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SUAREZ (D.)

To the initial questions of Representative Suarez, Representative Garin (S.) clarified the difference between public services and public utilities; the intent of the Bill to clarify and not to amend the definition of a “public utility”; and the non-coverage of telecommunications, transportation, and port services by said definition.

The two Members then debated on the Bill’s wisdom of allowing 100 percent foreign ownership of public utilities such as telecommunications. While Representative Suarez stressed the need to safeguard national security, the Sponsor said that the Committee will propose a provision authorizing

the President to intervene in the operation of public utilities when national security is involved.

Representative Garin added that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), together with other administrative agencies would be in the best position to set the parameters for ensuring national security in relation to business and investment.

Representative Suarez then raised the possible regulatory conflict to be faced by agencies which are guided by the constitutional limit on foreign ownership while the instant Bill would allow for a 100 percent ownership of public services. He also expressed doubt that these agencies, which he said were still being strengthened, could handle the regulatory adjustments needed upon liberalization of foreign investment in the country.

As he emphasized the need to improve regulations first, Representative Suarez asked whether there were pending bills aimed at strengthening and empowering regulatory agencies and bodies. Representative Garin replied that although she could not cite one at the moment, the House committees were all reviewing the powers and functions of these agencies.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 78

On motion of Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, there being no objection, the Body temporarily suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78.

ROLL CALL

Thereupon, on another motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abante	Alonte
Abaya	Alvarez (F.)
Abellanos	Alvarez (G.)
Abu	Amante-Matba
Abueg-Zaldivar	Amatong
Acop	Andaya
Adiong	Angara
Advincula	Aragones
Agabas	Arbison
Agarao	Arenas
Albano	Atienza
Almario	Babasa

Bagatsing	Dujali	Loyola	Romulo
Balindong	Duterte	Macapagal Arroyo	Salimbangon
Baños-Nogralles	Dy (F.)	Madrona	Salo
Barba	Ebcas	Malapitan	Sanchez
Baronda	Ecleo	Mangaoang	Santos-Recto
Bascug	Elago	Marcoleta	Savellano
Bautista	Enverga	Mariano-Hernandez	Silverio
Belmonte	Eriguel	Mariño	Sinsuat
Benitez	Ermita-Buhain	Marquez	Suansing (E.)
Biazon	Escudero	Matugas	Suansing (H.)
Billones	Espina	Momo	Suarez (A.)
Biron	Espino	Natividad-Nagaño	Suarez (D.)
Bolilia	Estrella	Noel	Suntay
Bondoc	Ferrer (J.M.)	Nogralles (J.J.)	Taduran
Bordado	Ferrer (L.)	Nolasco	Tallado
Bravo	Fortun	Oaminal	Tambunting
Bustos	Gaite	Olivarez	Tan (A.)
Cabatbat	Garbin	Ong (J.)	Tejada
Cabochan	Garcia (J.E.)	Ong (R.)	Teves (A.)
Cabredo	Garcia (P.J.)	Ortega	Teves (J.)
Cagas	Garin (J.)	Ouano-Dizon	Tiangco
Calderon	Garin (S.)	Pacquiao (A.)	Tolentino
Calixto	Gasataya	Pacquiao (R.)	Tulfo
Caminero	Gatchalian	Padiernos	Tupas
Campos	Gato	Paduano	Ty (A.)
Canama	Geron	Palma	Ty (Dy.)
Caoagdan	Go (E.C.)	Pancho	Umali (A.)
Cari	Go (M.)	Panotes	Umali (M.V.)
Castelo	Gonzaga	Plaza	Unabia
Castro (F.L.)	Gonzales (A.)	Puno	Ungab
Castro (F.H.)	Gonzalez	Quimbo	Uy (R.)
Cayetano (A.P.)	Guico	Radaza	Valeriano
Cayetano (M.L.)	Gullas	Ramirez-Sato	Vargas Alfonso
Celeste	Guya	Ramos	Velasco
Chatto	Haresco	Remulla	Veloso
Chipeco	Hataman	Revilla	Vergara
Chungalao	Herrera-Dy	Reyes	Villafuerte
Co (E.)	Hofer	Rivera	Villanueva (N.)
Collantes	Jalosjos	Robes	Villar
Crisologo	Javier	Rodriguez	Violago
Cua	Jimenez	Roman	Yap (E.)
Cuaresma	Kho (E.)	Romero	Zamora (R.)
Cullamat	Kho (W.)	Romualdez (F.M.)	Zarate
Dagooc	Khonghun	Romualdez (Y.M.)	Zubiri
Dalipe	Lacson	Romualdo	
Dalog	Lacson-Noel		
Daza	Lagman		
de Venecia	Lagon		
Defensor (L.)	Lara		
Del Mar	Lazatin		
Delos Santos	Leachon		
Deloso-Montalla	Legarda		
Dimaporo (A.)	Lim		
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Lopez		

With 221 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 29

On motion of Representative Collantes, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 29 dated November 20, 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Collantes thereafter acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Angelica Natasha Co and Edgar M. Chatto.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILLS

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of the following House Bills to the committees specified hereunder:

1. House Bill No. 2950 – from the Committee on Labor and Employment to the Committee on Revision of Laws;
2. House Bill No. 3451 – from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;
3. House Bill No. 3735 – from the Committee on Welfare of Children to the Committees on Revision of Laws, and Welfare of Children;
4. House Bill No. 2972 – from the Committee on Labor and Employment to the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Civil Service and Professional Regulation;
5. House Bills No. 652, 663, 1031, 2535, 2738, 2785, and 4558 – from the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Science and Technology to the Committees on Government Reorganization, Science and Technology, and Energy;
6. House Bill No. 4267 – from the Committee on Energy to the Committees on Government Reorganization, Science and Technology, and Energy; and
7. House Bill No. 5570 – from the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation to the Committee on Justice.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Thereupon, Representative Collantes acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund “L-Ray” F. Villafuerte Jr.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 78

On subsequent motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the

consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78 contained in Committee Report No. 5 as reported out by the Committee on Economic Affairs, entitled: “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PUBLIC SERVICE ACT’, AS AMENDED.”

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Representatives Garin (S.) and Suarez (D.), to continue with their debate on the Bill.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SUAREZ (D.)

Representative Suarez asked whether there will be a need to create new agencies or regulations for foreign companies once the Bill is passed considering that it is a matter of public interest and national security. He also asked on whether the Secretary of National Defense and the National Security Adviser support the measure.

After elaborating on the classification of industries which falls under the definition of public utilities as provided in the Bill, the Sponsor stressed that competition is good for every Filipino and to improve services, opening the industries to foreign investment is the best option.

Representative Suarez then suggested the adoption of the Korean model wherein the Philippines will focus on improving services in the country through nurturing of industry “champions” instead of relying on foreign investors, and so that the generated income will benefit the Philippines rather than the countries of the foreign investors. This approach would also empower and improve local industries to become more globally competitive, he added.

The Members also discussed the possible inclusion of a reciprocity clause in the measure which the Sponsor said the Committee would gladly consider.

In closing, Representative Suarez stressed the need to ensure that strong institutions are in place and to strengthen the capacity of Filipinos before opening the country to foreign investments. He said that increasing competition and allowing foreign nationals to come in may not be the best economic solution but may become an opportunity for foreigners to take advantage of the country’s weakness for profit gain.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Collantes acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Rep. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Collantes, there being no objection, the Chair recognized Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

Representative Elago's initial questions focused on the purpose and basis for the passage of the Bill as well as the basis of its proponents' contention that it will result in the improvement in the services of public utilities and in lower costs thereof.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hataman relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia.

After being promised copies of the stakeholders' position papers and the proceedings of pertinent consultations, Representative Elago then discussed with Representative Garin (J.) the rationale for narrowing down the definition of "public utility"; and the seeming violation of the constitutional provision on the 60 percent ownership of public utilities by Filipinos. She stressed that in the operation and ownership of public utilities, public interest as well as national sovereignty and security should be protected.

Thereafter, the Members debated on how the Bill would lead to better and more affordable public services by making the market more competitive. Citing the experience of the education sector, Representative Elago cautioned that opening the country's economy, without effective regulatory bodies, may not result in improved and affordable services but instead may be used to the advantage of foreign investors.

Representatives Elago and Garin thereafter talked about the rate setting methodology proposed in the Bill and the current rate setting policies, where the latter read a proposed amendment to the Bill stating that when the public interest requires, the administrative agency may establish and enforce a methodology for setting rates to ensure reasonable price of the commodity or service.

Representative Elago then requested for a copy of the aforementioned provision, and expressed her concern that the proposed measure might only reinforce

profitability as the intention of foreign investments rather than provide sustainable and better services to the people.

Despite existing limitations on foreign investments, Representative Elago then pointed out that foreign capitalists like the Chinese have already been involved in the provision of public services in the country; and asked whether the regulatory bodies could intervene to protect the interest and privacy of Filipinos. Representative Garin said that the sponsoring Committee would propose an additional section regarding national security, and then stressed that various policies, including the 1987 Constitution, are already in place to ensure the protection of an individual's rights to privacy and national security.

Lastly, the Members discussed the news report that the State Grid of China controls 40 percent of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. Representative Elago then urged her colleagues to be more stringent in passing the Bill and stressed the need to further study the measure.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 78

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES

On successive motions of Rep. Camille A. Villar, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members of the Majority to the committees specified hereunder:

Committee on Public Information

(as chairperson)

Rep. Ron P. Salo

(as vice chairpersons)

Rep. Amihilda J. Sangcopan

Rep. Alfred Vargas

Rep. Michael T. Defensor

(as members)

Rep. Sol Aragon

Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go

Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada

Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron

Rep. Ramon “Mon-Mon” V. Guico III, DPM
Rep. Ian Paul L. Dy
Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III
Rep. Allan Benedict S. Reyes
Rep. Allan U. Ty
Rep. Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez Jr.
Rep. Jake Vincent Villa
Rep. Vincent Franco “Duke” D. Frasco
Rep. Esmael G. Mangudadatu
Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho
Rep. Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran

Committee on Public Accounts

(as vice chairpersons)

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta
Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

(as member)

Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

Committee on Accounts

(as vice chairperson)

Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes

(as members)

Rep. Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr.
Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong

Committee on Trade and Industry

(as vice chairperson)

Rep. Allan U. Ty

Committee on Labor and Employment

(as members)

Rep. Allan U. Ty
Rep. Romeo S. Momo Sr.

Committee on Agriculture and Food

(as vice chairperson)

Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong

(as members)

Rep. Macnell M. Lusotan
Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales
Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato

Special Committee on Bases Conversion

(as vice chairperson)

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman

Committee on Higher and Technical Education

(as vice chairpersons)

Rep. Macnell M. Lusotan
Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong

Special Committee on East ASEAN Growth Area

(as vice chairperson)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Tourism

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Health

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Games and Amusements

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Housing and Urban Development

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Indigenous Cultural
Communities and Indigenous Peoples

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Basic Education and Culture

(as members)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales
Rep. Macnell M. LusotanCommittee on Natural Resources

(as members)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales
Rep. Josephine Ramirez-SatoCommittee on Transportation

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Micro, Small, and
Medium Enterprise Development

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Science and Technology

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Social Services

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Trade and Industry

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Women and Gender Equality

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Committee on Higher and Technical Education

(as member)

Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

Special Committee on West Philippine Sea

(as member)

Rep. Macnell M. Lusotan

**ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members of the Minority to the Committees specified hereunder:

Committee on Public Information

(as senior member)

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr.

(as additional members)

Rep. France L. Castro
Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.Committee on Public Accounts

(as senior member)

Rep. Bayani F. Fernando vice Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali

Committee on Foreign Affairs

(as member)

Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat vice Rep. Isagani S. Amatong

Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare

(as member)

Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali vice Rep. Isagani S. Amatong

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With leave of the House, on successive motions of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour and thereafter recognized Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. to deliver his privilege speech.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE BORDADO**

Representative Bordado spoke about the firing by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of Vice President Leni Gerona Robredo as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs or ICAD, less than

three weeks after her appointment. He said most of Vice President Robredo's allies and supporters had opposed her acceptance of the position knowing fully well the weight and scope of her responsibilities. He added that Vice President Robredo wasted no time in fulfilling her new role and within 19 days, she was able to convene all the government agencies under ICAD, met with officials of foreign drug enforcement agencies, and discussed pertinent matters on the war against illegal drugs.

Thereupon, Representative Bordado said that regardless of the President's recent decision, their ultimate goal of curbing the drug menace in the country still remains despite differing opinions and affiliations.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE BORDADO

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body referred Representative Bordado's privilege speech to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

Upon Representative Palma's motion, there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 73 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 59

On subsequent motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 59 contained in Committee Report No. 73 as submitted by the Committee on Trade and Industry.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT SETTING THE MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL AND LOCALLY PRODUCED STOCK INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN RETAIL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT OF 2000'.”

Representative Palma stated that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and on

his motion, the Chair recognized Reps. Weslie T. Gatchalian and Victor A. Yap, chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Industry and principal author of the measure, respectively, to sponsor the measure; as well as Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo to interpellate thereon.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE QUIMBO

Representative Quimbo initially discussed with Representative Yap (V.) the purpose of the Bill in opening up the retail sector to foreign competition in order to increase foreign investments, generate jobs, reduce prices, and increase or widen choices for consumers; and the specific reason why the retail sector was particularly chosen instead of other sectors such as manufacturing or services.

Representatives Quimbo and Yap agreed that the Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000 should be amended so as to lower the minimum paid-up capital requirement for foreign enterprises. They discussed the rationale and benefits of opening up the retail sector to foreign entities, namely, the improvement of the country's export position; promotion of competition that will result in broader consumer choices and better products and services; and advancement of entrepreneurship. They also analyzed data on the decline in foreign direct investments in the Philippines as compared to those in other ASEAN countries; and on the insignificant number of small and medium retail enterprises that will be affected by the new capital threshold.

Representatives Quimbo and Yap then discussed Section 4 of the Bill regarding foreign retailers of high-end products, with the latter explaining the proposed amendment to retain the original title of Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8762.

Furthermore, the Sponsor said that the reciprocity requirement and pre-qualification for all foreign retailers would be retained, but said that proposed amendments are welcome to reduce the requirements of foreign investors. Representative Quimbo expressed her intent to submit proposals and said that a long list of requirements could discourage entry of foreign retailers.

Representative Quimbo then asked whether there are countries which do not allow Filipino retailers to sell their goods therein. Representative Yap replied that he does not know of any such country but assured

the interpellator that he would furnish her a copy of pertinent data thereon when it becomes available.

In closing, Representative Quimbo congratulated the Sponsor for tackling the Bill, and hoped for its swift passage to create a more dynamic retail sector in the country. She however raised concern on existing anti-competitive structures that might discourage participation of foreign retailers and called on the Committee on Trade and Industry to guide the Philippine Competition Commission in addressing this concern.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 59


On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 59.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

It was 6:30 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES
Secretary General

Approved on December 2, 2019.

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 31

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

ABANTE	BORDADO	DY (F.)
ABAYA	BRAVO	**** DY (F.M.C.)
ABELLANOSA	**** BROSAS	*** DY (I.P.)
ABU	**** BULUT	EBCAS
ABUEG-ZALDIVAR	** BUSTOS	ECLEO
*** ABUNDA	CABATBAT	ELAGO
ACOP	CABOCHAN	ENVERGA
*** ACOSTA	CABREDO	* ERICE
*** ACOSTA-ALBA	** CAGAS	ERIGUEL
ADIONG	CALDERON	ERMITA-BUHAIN
** ADVINCULA	CALIXTO	ESCUDERO
AGABAS	CAMINERO	ESPINA
** AGARAO	CAMPOS	ESPINO
**** AGLIPAY	CANAMA	ESTRELLA
**** AGUINALDO	CAOAGDAN	**** FARIÑAS (R.C.)
ALBANO	CARI	**** FARIÑAS I (R.C.)
ALMARIO	** CASTELO	**** FERNANDEZ
ALONTE	CASTRO (F.L.)	**** FERNANDO
ALVAREZ (F.)	CASTRO (F.H.)	FERRER (J.M.)
ALVAREZ (G.)	** CAYETANO (A.P.)	** FERRER (L.)
**** ALVAREZ (P.)	CAYETANO (M.L.)	*** FLORES
AMANTE-MATBA	CELESTE	*** FONGWAN
AMATONG	CHATTO	** FORTUN
ANDAYA	** CHIPECO	**** FORTUNO
ANGARA	CHUNGALAO	*** FRASCO
ARAGONES	**** CO (A.N.)	**** FUENTEBELLA
ARBISON	CO (E.)	GAITE
ARENAS	**** COJUANGCO	GARBIN
*** ARROYO	COLLANTES	GARCIA (J.E.)
ATIENZA	CRISOLOGO	GARCIA (P.J.)
*** AUMENTADO	CUA	* GARCIA (V.)
BABASA	CUARESMA	GARIN (J.)
BAGATSING	*** CUEVA	GARIN (S.)
BALINDONG	CULLAMAT	GASATAYA
BAÑAS-NOGRALES	DAGOOC	** GATCHALIAN
BARBA	DALIPE	GATO
* BARBERS	DALOG	** GERON
BARONDA	DAZA	GO (E.C.)
**** BARZAGA	*** DE JESUS	GO (M.)
BASCUG	DE VENECIA	GONZAGA
** BAUTISTA	DEFENSOR (L.)	GONZALES (A.)
**** BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN	* DEFENSOR (M.)	* GONZALES (N.)
BELMONTE	DEL MAR	** GONZALEZ
BENITEZ	DELOS SANTOS	*** GORRICETA
**** BERNOS	DELOSO-MONTALLA	GUICO
BIAZON	DIMAPORO (A.)	GULLAS
BILLONES	DIMAPORO (M.K.)	GUYA
BIRON	**** DUAVIT	HARESCO
BOLILIA	DUJALI	HATAMAN
BONDOC	DUTERTE	**** HERNANDEZ

	HERRERA-DY		PACQUIAO (A.)		SUNTAY
	HOFER		PACQUIAO (R.)	*	SY-ALVARADO
	JALOSJOS		PADIERNOS		TADURAN
	JAVIER		PADUANO		TALLADO
	JIMENEZ		PALMA		TAMBUNTING
	KHO (E.)	**	PANCHO	****	TAN (A.S.)
	KHO (W.)		PANOTES	**	TAN (A.)
	KHONGHUN	****	PEÑA	****	TAN (S.)
****	LABADLABAD	*	PICHAY	****	TAN (S.A.)
	LACSON	****	PIMENTEL	****	TAN-TAM BUT
	LACSON-NOEL	*	PINEDA		TEJADA
	LAGMAN		PLAZA		TEVES (A.)
	LAGON		PUNO		TEVES (J.)
	LARA		QUIMBO		TIANGCO
	LAZATIN		RADAZA		TOLENTINO
	LEACHON		RAMIREZ-SATO	****	TORRES-GOMEZ
	LEGARDA		RAMOS		TULFO
	LIM		REMULLA		TUPAS
****	LIMKAICHONG		REVILLA	*	TUTOR
	LOPEZ		REYES		TY (A.)
	LOYOLA		RIVERA		TY (D.)
****	LUSOTAN		ROBES		UMALI (A.)
	MACAPAGAL ARROYO	**	RODRIGUEZ		UMALI (M.V.)
*	MACEDA	**	ROMAN		UNABIA
	MADRONA	**	ROMERO		UNGAB
	MALAPITAN		ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)	****	UY (J.)
	MANGAOANG		ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.)		UY (R.)
****	MANGUDADATU		ROMUALDO		VALERIANO
	MARCOLETA		ROMULO	***	VALMAYOR
	MARIANO-HERNANDEZ	****	ROQUE	*	VARGAS
	MARIÑO	***	SACDALAN		VARGAS ALFONSO
	MARQUEZ	****	SAGARBARRIA		VELASCO
****	MARTINEZ	****	SAKALURAN		VELOSO
*	MATBA	*	SALCEDA		VERGARA
	MATUGAS		SALIMBANGON	****	VILLA
****	MENDOZA		SALO		VILLAFUERTE
	MOMO		SANCHEZ	*	VILLANUEVA (E.)
	NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO	***	SANGCOPAN		VILLANUEVA (N.)
***	NAVA		SANTOS-RECTO		VILLAR
*	NIETO	****	SARMIENTO	****	VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
	NOEL	*	SAULOG	*	VILLARICA
**	NOGRALES (J.J.)		SAVELLANO	**	VIOLAGO
*	NOGRALES (J.F.F.)	****	SIAO		YAP (E.)
	NOLASCO		SILVERIO	*	YAP (V.)
***	NUÑEZ-MALANYAON	****	SINGSON	***	YU
	OAMINAL	****	SINGSON-MEEHAN	**	ZAMORA (R.)
	OLIVAREZ		SINSUAT	***	ZAMORA (W.K.)
	ONG (J.)		SUANSING (E.)		ZARATE
	ONG (R.)		SUANSING (H.)		ZUBIRI
	ORTEGA		SUAREZ (A.)		
	OUANO-DIZON		SUAREZ (D.)		

* Appeared after the Roll Call

** Section 71, Rule XI of the Rules of the House
(Attended committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules/Attended meetings of the CA, HRET, or bicameral conference committees/
On official mission as approved by the Speaker)

*** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence

**** Absent without notice
(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)