



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education	HB 6691	Deputy Speaker Escudero	Institutionalizing blended learning in public and private schools during public health emergencies and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Joint Committee, co-presided by Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Chair of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, approved HB 6691, subject to style and amendment, incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Evelina Escudero (1<sup>st</sup> District, Sorsogon), author of HB 6691, said that the COVID-19 pandemic brought about disruptions in the educational system, necessitating a shift to a hybrid system of education. The Deputy Speaker said that her bill seeks to institutionalize “blended learning” in times of public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The term “blended learning,” as defined in the bill, “designates the range of learning possibilities in an education program in which content and instruction are presented by combining internet, digital media, television or radio broadcast with established classroom forms that require the co-presence of teacher and students.”</p> <p>Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones expressed support for the bill as she believes that learning should continue whatever the situation is using alternative learning delivery modalities.</p> <p>Rep. Roman asked what modality of learning will be used by DepEd for basic education when school year 2020-2021 opens in August.</p> <p>Briones said that DepEd would be able to discuss with the Committee its final plans for the next school year by July.</p> <p>Rep. Go asked the DepEd to come up with a learning modality that will not only provide quality education to all students but will be compliant with the health guidelines of the government to avoid transmission of the disease.</p>
	HB 6708	Rep. Lacson	Establishing the television broadcasting education program as an alternative learning system for basic education	<p>The Joint Committee approved HB 6708 subject to style and amendment, incorporating therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education				Rep. Virgilio Lacson (Party-List, MANILA TEACHERS), author of HB 6708, said that his bill seeks to develop and establish an education system using television and broadcast media to ensure inclusivity in education. He averred that although online classes may seem to be the ideal alternative method of learning in times of a pandemic, there are students who cannot cope with the requirements of this learning modality. Thus, using TV and broadcast media, which are accessible to many Filipinos even in the remote and far-flung areas, could achieve education for all.
	HR 780	Rep. Bañas-Nogales	Urging the Departments of Education (DepEd), Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and Health (DOH), and the major telecommunications companies to come up with a task force which will recommend a mechanism for a home-based/virtual education system for K-12 students during the state of public health emergency	<p>The Joint Committee adopted HR 780 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales (1<sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato), author of HR 780, said that the DepEd Commons may already answer the concern she raised in her resolution.</p> <p>DepEd Commons is an online platform launched by DepEd which was designed to give teachers and students access to online review materials and open educational resources (OERs) during class suspensions and other similar circumstances.</p>
	HR 857	Rep. Villaraza-Suarez	Urging the DepEd to implement TV-based lectures for elementary and high schools in the country during the COVID-19 period, use the facilities of two government-owned TV stations PTV 4 and IBC 13 television stations to serve as transmission vehicles for such lectures, and ensure government continues on its track to achieve the goal for quality education included in the 17 sustainable development goals	<p>The Joint Committee adopted HR 857 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>The Secretariat was directed to draft the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar agreed that the use of TV and broadcast media will enable students to continually learn when face-to-face learning modality is not allowed in times of pandemic. However, the government's public media outlets such as the PTV4 and IBC 13 already have outdated transmission towers and would require a significant amount to upgrade them.</p>
	HB 5092	Rep. Bordado	Establishing an education mutual fund	<p>The Joint Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 5092.</p> <p>Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Camarines Sur), author of HB 5092, said that his proposed measure establishes a mutual fund to ensure the financial security of educators in the country which will be managed by a government bank designated under the proposed law.</p> <p>Education Secretary Briones said that the DepEd already has a provident fund which serves as a loan facility for its employees. Nevertheless, the Department will explore ways to harmonize it with the mutual fund being proposed in the bill.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Romulo, DepEd Undersecretary Annalyn Sevilla said that a mutual</p>

Continuation... Basic Education and Culture jt. w/ Higher and Technical Education				fund is infused with government funds, such that it will offer better benefits to teachers compared to a provident fund.  Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara (3 <sup>rd</sup> District Nueva Ecija) expressed support for the bill and suggested that private school teachers be covered under the proposed law.  Briones agreed with Rep. Vergara's suggestion.
	HB 3749	Rep. Rodriguez	Including new subjects in the curricula of schools in the Philippines	The Committee agreed to create a TWG to deliberate further on HBs 3749 and 6690.
	HB 6690	Deputy Speaker Escudero	Integrating basic medical and health training and risk reduction, national emergency or disaster awareness, preparedness and response in the curriculum of schools and institutions of learning	Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 3749, said that his bill seeks to include in the school curricula subjects on indigenous peoples' methods of gardening, climate change, peace and solidarity, computer operations, intellectual property, Philippine society, and environment.  Briones said that subjects like climate change and disaster risk management are already included in the present curricula. But she said, the Department will still study the inclusion of the proposed subjects under the bills.  Representatives from DepEd, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of National Defense (DND), and Legal Education Board (LEB) expressed their support for the bills.

#### TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
<b>Special Committee on Senior Citizens</b> (Technical Working Group)	HBs 378, 390, 907, 1055, 1391, 1682, 2872, 3098, 3526, 4067, 4895, 4986, 5135, 5382, 5414, 5717 & 6360	Reps. Zamora (M.), Arroyo (M.L.), Lagon, Loyola, Go (M.), Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Fortuno, Revilla, Ty (D.), Delos Santos, Yap (E.), Agabas, Cabochan, Tupas, Nieto, Datol, and Abunda	Amending RA 10868, otherwise known as the Centenarian Act of 2016 (by allowing senior citizens to receive in advance, in several tranches, the cash gift given to centenarians)	The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. (Party-List, SENIOR CITIZENS), approved the consolidation of the 21 bills.  Rep. Datol urged the immediate passage of this bill in order to reward and give due recognition to senior citizens for their contributions to society and most importantly to extend assistance to the sector that is considered to be the most vulnerable to COVID-19.  Also present during the meeting were the following principal authors who gave their respective sponsorship speeches: Reps. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Compostela Valley), Ma. Lourdes Arroyo (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Negros Occidental), Mark Go (Baguio City), Strike Revilla (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Cavite), Diego Ty (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Misamis Occidental), Alfred delos Santos (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO), Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), Raul "Boboy" Tupas (5 <sup>th</sup> District, Iloilo), John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto (3 <sup>rd</sup> District, Manila), Jose Atienza Jr. (Party-List, BUHAY), Carlito Marquez (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Aklan), and Julianne Baronda (Iloilo City).
	HB 1107	Rep. Atienza	Amending Section 2 of RA 10868 (by granting 101-year-old citizens P1 million, with an additional P1 million every birthday thereafter)	
	HB 3199	Rep. Marquez	Amending Section 2 of RA 10868 (by giving senior citizens the full coverage of health benefits by all government hospitals)	

Continuation... Special Committee on Senior Citizens (Technical Working Group)	HBs 3415 & 4373	Reps. Zamora (R.) and Baronda	Providing for an automatic annual adjustment of the centenarian gift, amending for the purpose RA 10868	<p>Resource persons from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Economic and Development Authority, Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), Confederation of Older Persons Associations of the Philippines, and the Provincial OSCA Association, expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>The TWG agreed that the cash gift be granted to the elderly in tranches based on certain age levels, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 years old – P25,000</li> <li>• 85 years old – P25,000</li> <li>• 90 years old – P25,000</li> <li>• 95 years old – P25,000</li> <li>• 100 years old – P100,000</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Enrico Pineda (Party-List, 1-PACMAN) also suggested changing the title of the bill from Centenarian Act to Octogenarian Act since the grant of the cash gift will start at age 80.</p> <p>PSA Assistant National Statistician Wilma Guillen recommended that the cash gift to be given in tranches should be specifically reflected in the consolidated bill. She also explained that with a cash gift of P25,000 per senior citizen, this will require a budgetary requirement of P24 billion on the first year of implementation. However, she said the budgetary requirement for the succeeding tranches would gradually decrease as many senior citizens would have already been covered during the first tranche.</p> <p>Department of Finance Senior Tax Specialist Tommy Redula expressed his reservation on the bill. He explained that a duplication of benefits will occur considering that indigent senior citizens are already entitled to a monthly stipend of P500.00 to help defray the cost of daily subsistence and other medical needs under RA 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010. Apart from this law, indigent senior citizens are also given annual cash assistance under the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program of the DSWD. He added that as the country is battling the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOF is giving priority to the health sector and the recovery of the country's economy.</p> <p>The Committee requested the PSA to submit its updated data on the number of senior citizens aged 80 to 100 years old nationwide.</p>
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