



COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy	HB 4075	Rep. Bernos	Providing the national policy and regulatory framework for the use of electronic vehicles and the establishment of electric charging stations	<p>The Committee, chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to fine-tune HB 4075.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” Garcia (2nd District, Bataan) was designated as chair of the TWG.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco said that the proposed law is one of the Committee’s legislative priorities in the 18th Congress. He added that the use of e-vehicles is one way of helping the government promote clean and renewable resources and technologies.</p> <p>Abra Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño Bernos, author of HB 4075, said that the environmental impact of the petroleum-based means of transportation, along with the fear of “peak oil” (the theory that there will come a point in time when oil production peaks and begins to decline until the maximum extraction point is reached), has led to the renewed interest in an electric transportation infrastructure. He said that the potential of e-vehicles in mass transportation is not yet fully realized. Hence, the bill seeks to create a national policy to encourage the manufacturing, importation, and utilization of e-vehicles in the country.</p> <p>Expressing support for the bill were representatives of the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Board of Investment (BOI), DTI Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS), Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, League of Cities in the Philippines, League of Municipalities in the Philippines, Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Manila Electric Company, Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines, and E-Sakay. Most of the resource persons made some recommendations to further improve the proposed law.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Department of Finance (DOF) Fiscal Policy and Planning Office Director Rowena Sta. Clara said that while the DOF agrees to the intent of the bill, it objects to the grant of exemption from payment of taxes as proposed under the bill. This, Sta. Clara said, may affect the tax administration and revenue generation efforts of the government.</p> <p>The resource persons were asked to submit their respective position papers on the bill for the TWG’s consideration.</p>
Population and Family Relations	Substitute Resolution to HRs 834 & 937	Reps. Aragonés and Torres-Gomez	Directing the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to hasten the implementation of RA 11055, otherwise known as the Philippine	The Committee, chaired by Guimaras Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava M.D., approved the substitute resolution and the corresponding Committee Report.

Continuation... Population and Family Relations			<p>Identification System (PhilSys) Act, and RA 11315, otherwise known as the Community-Based Monitoring System Act, as vital database mechanisms in providing social amelioration during the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>Rep. Sol Aragones (3rd District, Laguna), author of HR 834, said that the purpose of the inquiry is to know the status of implementation of the PhilSys Act since its enactment in 2018 and to discuss its timeline considering that the PhilSys could have significantly aided in the delivery of service and distribution of assistance to the people amid the pandemic.</p> <p>Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez (4th District, Leyte), author of HR 937, urged the integrated implementation of the PhilSys and CBMS to establish a digital database that would produce an accurate and transparent list of beneficiaries for social amelioration; expedite and enhance the process of verifying identity and pertinent documents; and facilitate digital and cashless distribution of financial subsidies, among others.</p> <p>Expressing their support for the measures were resource persons from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Social Security System (SSS), and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).</p> <p>NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua said that at the moment, the focus of PhilSys registration are the heads of low-income households for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the government's emergency social protection programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The PSA head, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Claire Dennis Mapa, explained that initially, the PhilSys target was the registration of majority of Filipinos and resident aliens by 2022. However, due to the pandemic, the registration target for 2020 was revised to give priority to low-income household heads. A total of five million low income household heads are targeted to be registered by December of this year.</p> <p>Under the PhilSys roadmap, at least 40 million Filipinos are targeted to be registered by 2021, 10 million of whom are low income household heads. Meanwhile, the transition from physical Philippine identification cards (IDs) to mobile IDs and other digital credentials is targeted to commence by 2022.</p> <p>BSP Director for Human Resource Management Department Mary Anne Lim said that the bidding and procurement for the production of ID cards has already started.</p> <p>With regard to the CBMS implementation, Mapa informed the body that the law's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was signed on May 20. For the period June to July, the PSA intends to undertake the following: establish the Community-Based Statistics Service (CBSS); submit the proposed plantilla for CBSS; consult with stakeholders; and conduct a comprehensive review of survey instruments on the socio-demographic</p>
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Continuation... Population and Family Relations				characteristics of households and members in the communities.
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HOUSE MEASURES				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ways and Means (Technical Working Group)	HB 6765	Rep. Salceda	Establishing a fiscal regime for the digital economy, amending for the purpose Sections 57, 105, 108, and 114 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC)	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), will deliberate further on HBs 6765 and 6944 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), author of HB 6765, explained that the bill imposes value-added tax (VAT) on digital business transactions, including the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs); digital advertising services provided by internet giants such as Google and Facebook; subscription-based services provided by Netflix and Spotify; network orchestrators for lease services such as AirBnB; and electronic commerce platforms like Lazada and Shopee.</p> <p>Rep. Salceda, however, clarified that barangay micro business enterprises or those whose sales and assets do not exceed P3 million and those whose income earning is below P250,000 per year are not covered by the proposed law. Nonetheless, he admitted that there are still gray areas in relation to such thresholds that the TWG needs to study.</p> <p>Rep. Garin agreed with Rep. Salceda pointing out that small online sellers should be protected from undue tax burden.</p> <p>In response to the query of Rep. Salceda regarding the POGO, Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Dakila Elteen Napao said that the government collects 5% license tax and 2% registration fee from eight POGO which are domestic licensees. Likewise, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa said that the BIR is currently imposing income tax on POGO service-oriented operations as well as withholding tax on wages of POGO employees.</p> <p>Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. (2nd District, Aklan) suggested that the DOF should study the best practices in other countries on digital VAT revenue generation measures especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein most of business transactions and purchases are being done online.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to consider the DOF's version of the bill in finalizing the proposed law. Rep. Garin said that the draft version of DOF needs to be reconciled with certain provisions of the NIRC.</p> <p>The DOF was requested to submit the projected revenues should the proposed law be passed as well as its tax implications and impact on the consumers.</p>
	HB 6944	Rep. Garin (S.)	Establishing digital taxation in the Philippines	

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