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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources (Technical Working Group)	HBs 1119-1123, 1125, 1126, 1132-1134, 1727, 1728, 1931, 1932, 2162, 2408, 3234, 3264, 3890, 4442, 4627, 4787, 4882, 4883, 5302, 5413 & 5416	Reps. Tupas, Cabredo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Dimaporo (A.), Suansing (E.), Sarmiento, Veloso, Benitez, Acosta, Roman, Dalipe, Amatong, Cari, and Babasa	Establishing multi-species marine hatcheries in various parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr." Acosta (3rd District, Palawan), terminated its deliberations on the 31 bills.</p> <p>The TWG will submit and present its report on the bills to the mother Committee on December 4.</p> <p>The resource persons from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) gave their findings and recommendations relative to the sites of the proposed multi-species marine hatcheries, research centers, and breeding stations.</p>
	HBs 2255, 2407, 4557 & 4623	Reps. Alfonso, Suansing (E.), Deputy Speaker Savellano, and Rep. Dimaporo (A.)	Establishing fisheries and aquaculture research centers and experimental breeding stations in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>While some of the suggested sites passed the BFAR standards, there are those which are unsuitable for their intended purpose because of the following reasons: difficulty of accessing the area, salinity of the water, existence of mangroves, presence of pests or insects, and problems on the ownership of the proposed sites. The TWG members agreed that those sites that are not suitable for the purpose, the proponents could look for other areas where the establishment of hatcheries or research centers will be more viable.</p>
Justice (Technical Working Group)	Substitute Bill to HBs 4103, 339, 1666, 1838 & 4178	Reps. Rodriguez, Romualdo, Cabochan, and Haresco	Modernizing the Bureau of Immigration (BI) by defining its powers and functions, expanding, rationalizing and further professionalizing its organization, upgrading the compensation and benefits of its officials and employees, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay), terminated its deliberations on the substitute bill.</p> <p>The TWG agreed to the proposed upgrading of the salary grades of immigration officers and increase in the salaries of all officials and employees of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) which will be sourced from the fees collected in its express lane system. The TWG also agreed to include in the bill a provision granting hazard pay of up to 25% of the basic salary to qualified employees.</p> <p>Immigration Deputy Commissioner J. Tobias Javier maintained the BI's position that it prefers to retain its structure as a bureau rather than a commission.</p> <p>Rep. Lagman said that visa issuances should be rationalized noting that aside from the BI, other agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) also issue visas.</p>