



# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology (Technical Working Group)	Draft Consolidated Bill on HBs 103, 139, 499, 546, 574, 635, 1754, 1837, 2396, 2484, 2811, 2969, 3140, 3338, 3536, 3537, 3723, 3725, 4339, 4435, 4644, 4724, 4827, 5048, 5312, 5383, 5411, 5489, 5623, 5772, 5773, 6076, 6085, 6180 & 6279, and HRs 213, 261 & 553	Reps. Fortun, Roman, Barbers, Biazon, Gasataya, Deputy Speakers Legarda and Villafuerte, Reps. Rodriguez, Velasco, Suansing (E.), Defensor (L.), Espino, Herrera-Dy, Castelo, Tambunting, Barba, Teves, Fariñas (R.C.), Tutor, Nieto, Siao, Noel, Abellanosa, Yap (E.), Tallado, Minority Leader Abante, Reps. Guico, Sy-Alvarado, Go (M.), Pacquiao, and Matugas	Regulating the production, importation, sale, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling, and disposal of single-use plastic products	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will deliberate further on the draft consolidated bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Velasco, author of HB 2396, said that the TWG was tasked to determine the type of single-use plastic products that should be covered under the proposed law and to recommend the timeframe for the gradual phasing out of certain types of single-use plastic products in the country.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, author of HBs 546 and 5411, stressed the need to differentiate “single-use plastic” from “recyclable single-use plastic.” He also suggested that non-essential single-use plastics that are non-recyclable like shrink wraps should be totally banned. (Shrink wrap is a transparent plastic material used as packaging which is wrapped around the product and shrunk by heating to seal and tightly cover the product.)</p> <p>Rep. Biazon likewise suggested that a phase-out plan for single-use plastics should already be included in the bill to serve as a clear guide for government regulatory agencies in implementing the proposed law. He said that the TWG could refer to Section 5 of HB 546 in crafting the provision on the phase-out plan.</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said that the DENR refers to the term “unnecessary single-use plastics” as single-use plastics that cannot be recycled anymore. He, however, also warned against the repeated use of recyclable single-use plastics because they may already be contaminated and therefore unhygienic and unsafe to use.</p> <p>Opposing views were aired by other stakeholders and resource persons from the business and manufacturing sector and the non-government and environmental organizations as to whether a total or selective ban of all types of single-use plastic products should be enforced.</p>
Special Committee on Senior Citizens (Technical Working Group)	HBs 88, 241, 1565, 2480, 2541, 2868, 2873, 3038, 3097, 3229,	Reps. Garbin, Zarate, Angara, Tan (A.), Daza, Tupas, Fortuno, Suansing (E.),	Expanding the coverage and increasing the amount of social pension to senior citizens under RA 7432, as amended by RA 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010	The technical working group (TWG), presided by Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2 <sup>nd</sup> District, Marikina City), will deliberate further on the 24 bills in its next meeting. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare a substitute bill.

Continuation... Special Committee on Senior Citizens (Technical Working Group)	3525, 3640, 4057, 4669, 4650, 4948, 5056, 5122, 5173, 5632, 5735, 5926, 6038 & 6298	Revilla, Nieto, Ty, Bagatsing, Lacson-Noel, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Dy (F.), Agabas, Aragones, Olivarez, Deputy Speaker Duterte, Reps. Guico, Lim, Quimbo, and Peña		<p>Rep. Quimbo said that all these bills cover common grounds: the definition of “indigent senior citizen,” the amount of social pension for senior citizens, and the data sharing arrangement among concerned government agencies relating to senior citizens.</p> <p>Explaining the main features of her bill, Rep. Quimbo said that HB 6038 seeks to make mandatory the grant of social pension to all Filipino senior citizens who are not receiving any monthly pension. Based on the current law, only indigent senior citizens are entitled to such social pension. She said her proposal to cover all senior citizens will require an additional P11 billion from the current appropriation of P23 billion.</p> <p>On data sharing, Rep. Quimbo suggested that data pertaining to senior citizens should initially come from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), but the Department of Social Welfare and Development should also get data from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System to determine the total number of senior citizens who are pensioners.</p> <p>GSIS legal counsel Lucio Yu Jr. mentioned that the GSIS has a data sharing agreement with the PSA.</p> <p>Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) mentioned that several bills with similar subject matter have been discussed during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress at the Committee level, for which a Committee Report was prepared and submitted.</p> <p>Former Rep. Neri Colmenares pushed for an increase in the pension of senior citizens, adding that it should be incumbent upon the government to provide the required funding.</p> <p>The body agreed to include in the substitute bill the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automatic review of the law every two years to determine if there is a need to adjust the amount of the monthly social pension; and</li> <li>• Effective pay-out system for the social pension of senior citizens.</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management will be requested to comment on the proposed P500 increase in the monthly pension of senior citizens. Likewise, the PSA will be requested to submit its position paper on the proposed data sharing arrangement with concerned agencies.</p>
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