



# Committee Daily Bulletin

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Higher and Technical Education	HBs 424, 4740 & 4741	Reps. Rodriguez and Frasco	Establishing state universities in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved the three bills.
	HB 1981	Rep. Siao	Converting the Iligan City National School of Fisheries (ICNSF) into the Iligan City Polytechnic State College (ICPSC), defining its powers, functions, and duties, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 1981.
	HB 2836	Rep. Rodriguez	Strengthening the Legal Education Board, thereby amending RA 7662, otherwise known as the Legal Education Reform Act of 1993 and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 2836.  Legal Education Board (LEB) Chairperson Emerson Aquende expressed his support for the bill.  The LEB was created by virtue of RA 7662 or the Legal Education Act of 1993. Its mandate is to institute reforms and uplift the standard of legal education in the country. It is attached solely for budgetary purposes and administrative support to the Department of Education (DepEd).
	HBs 4143, 4641 & 5291	Rep. Chatto, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, and Rep. Tallado	Establishing Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training centers in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the three bills.  TESDA Lawyer Clifford Pascual expressed his support for the bill.
	HBs 4188 & 5158	Rep. Ty and Deputy Speaker Savellano	Establishing field offices of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the Provinces of Misamis Occidental and Ilocos Sur, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HBs 4188 and 5158.
	HB 4490	Rep. Fortun	Establishing the Forest Studies and Development Center in the Caraga State University (CSU), defining its functions and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved HB 4490.  Caraga State University's (CSU) Extension Services Office Head Romell Seronay expressed his support for the bill.
	HB 2683	Rep. Chipeco	Mandating the CHED to include a course on modern political systems, with emphasis on federalism and parliamentary forms of government, as a mandatory subject in the higher education curriculum	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on HB 2683.  CHED's Chief of the Office of Programs and Standards Development Elsa Florendo expressed her support for the bill.
	HB 235	Rep. Vargas	Creating a state university in the fifth legislative district of Quezon City to be known as the Novaliches State University and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee deferred consideration of HB 235 pending the submission of requirements set by CHED in creating state universities.

Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health	HBs 40, 500, 1508, 1510, 1703, 2277, 2862, 2929, 3049, 3083, 4816, 5072, 5099, 5310, 5510 & 5561	Reps. Biazon, Barbers, Garbin, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Garcia (J.E.), Salo, Castelo, Tan (A.), Olivarez, Singson-Meehan, Roman, Garin (S.), Herrera-Dy, and Alonte	Regulating the manufacture, importation, packaging, use, sale, distribution, and advertisement of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS) and heated tobacco products (HTPs)	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1<sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City), Chair of the Committee on Trade and Industry, and Rep. Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Quezon), Chair of the Committee on Health, will deliberate further on the 16 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Gatchalian underscored the need to discuss further the proposed measures in order to address other underlying issues related to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and similar products, while conveying the resolve of the President and other government agencies to regulate these products.</p> <p>These products are being marketed by the producers and sellers as a "safer" alternative to conventional tobacco products. But the government, including health authorities, and other groups want these regulated due to their ill effects on human health.</p> <p>ENDS/ENNDS are combinations of non-tobacco-containing e-liquids or refills and an electronic delivery device to produce aerosol, mist or vapor that users inhale by mimicking the act of smoking. The most common type of ENDS/ENNDS is the e-cigarette. Meanwhile, HTPs use an electronic devise to heat processed tobacco leaves and produce aerosols for inhalation by mimicking the act of smoking conventional cigarettes. (Source: DOH Administrative Order No. 2019-0007)</p> <p>Based on a study by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), out of the 15.9 million adult Filipino smokers, 12 million or 76% want to quit smoking, and might try e-cigarettes and similar devices as alternatives to tobacco products, Rep. Gatchalian said.</p> <p>According to Rep. Tan, the proposed regulation of these "smoking cessation devices" have been debated upon since the previous Congress without any decisive action.</p> <p>The DOH, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Tobacco Administration, World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, and the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>Also in favor of the regulation of ENDS/ENNDS and HTPs, but not banning them, were the Philippine E-Cigarette Industry Association (PECIA), and tobacco companies such as Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corporation (PMFTC) and Juul Labs, Inc. Likewise, Quit4Good, an Australian business company that promotes people's health and well-being by helping people quit smoking, expressed its support for the bills.</p> <p>Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), author of HB 5099, advised the DOH and the FDA to refer to relevant local studies and not only foreign ones relative to the formulation of regulatory measures on ENDS/ENNDS and HTPs.</p>
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Continuation... Trade and Industry jt. w/ Health				DOH Medical Officer Maria Fatima de Guzman informed the body that the DOH, in partnership with WHO's Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, will be conducting a year-long study relevant to the ENDS/ENNDS and HTPs come January 2020.
Transportation	HBs 4773, 4786, 5017, 5115, 5153, 5277, 5314, 5417, 5420 & 5488	Reps. Unabia, Frasco, Suansing (E.), Deputy Speaker Legarda, Reps. Cari, Ong, Ty, Babasa, Ecleo, and Barzaga	Establishing Land Transportation Office (LTO) district offices/branches in certain parts of the country, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), approved the 16 bills.
	HBs 4038, 4803, 5120, 5192 & 5519	Reps. Agabas, Uy, Nograles (J.F.F), Violago, and Lazatin	Converting LTO satellite offices into regular LTO district offices in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4921	Rep. Singson	Relocating the LTO in the Municipality of San Ildefonso, Province of Ilocos Sur, to the Municipality of Bantay, Ilocos Sur and appropriating funds therefor	
	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		Inquiry into the traffic management plan for South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in view of ongoing road projects in the area	<p>The Committee terminated its <i>motu proprio</i> inquiry into the traffic management plan for South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in view of ongoing road projects in the area.</p> <p>Skyway O&amp;M Corporation (SOMCO) President Manuel Bonoan reported that traffic in SLEX has eased up with the reopening of the third at-grade lane of the Skyway and the construction of the two-lane steel ramps connecting the Alabang viaduct to the elevated Skyway. He added that projects along the SLEX are already near completion.</p> <p>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III and Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) Project Monitoring Engineer Efren Rabot said that based on the reports of their personnel on the ground, traffic situation in the area has considerably improved with the interventions that SOMCO has put in place.</p>
	<i>Motu proprio</i> inquiry		Inquiry into right-of-way issues that impede the government's "Build Build Build" projects	<p>The Committee will continue with its inquiry into right-of-way issues that impede the government's "Build Build Build" projects in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Committee focused on the right-of way problems being faced by the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA).</p> <p>LRTA Line 1 Project Manager Eleonor Palaypayon reported that the LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension Project will start its partial operations by December 2021 and is expected to be fully operationalized by December 2022. Palaypayon said that one of the challenges that contribute to the slow</p>

Continuation... Transportation				<p>implementation of the project is the delay in the resolution of expropriation cases.</p> <p>The 11.7-kilometer LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension Project will connect the existing LRT Line 1 Baclaran Station to the proposed Niyog Station in Bacoor, Cavite.</p> <p>Supreme Court (SC) Administrator Megan Musni informed the Committee that the SC has already coordinated with the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to discuss how to efficiently handle expropriation cases. According to Musni, the SC plans to designate courts that will focus solely on cases involving the expropriation of properties that will be affected by government infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4<sup>th</sup> District, Cavite) asked the SC to provide the Committee with a list of courts that failed to act on expropriation cases in a timely manner.</p>
Transportation jt. w/ Games and Amusements	<i>Motu proprio inquiry</i>		Inquiry into the preparations of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) for the holiday season	<p>The Joint Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1<sup>st</sup> District, Western Samar), Chair of the Committee on Transportation, and Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS), Chair of the Committee on Games and Amusements, will continue with its inquiry into the preparations being done by the NAIA for the holiday season in its next meeting.</p> <p>In today's meeting, the Joint Committee solicited the sentiments of the establishments near the NAIA terminals with regard to Department of Transportation (DOTr) Department Order No. 2016-019. The DO mandates the transfer of all general aviation operations (except helicopter operation and emergency medical airlift services) from NAIA to other alternative gateways such as the Clark International Airport and Sangley Point Airport in Cavite.</p> <p>General aviation refers to civil aviation operations other than scheduled air services and non-scheduled air transport operations for remuneration or hire. Activities under this category are classified into instructional flying, business flying, pleasure flying, and aerial work. (Source: International Civil Aviation Organization website)</p> <p>Okada Vice President Nelson Victorino and City of Dreams Senior Legal Counsel EJ Labro interposed no objections to DO 2016-019.</p> <p>On the contrary, Resorts World Manila Legal Officer Walter Mactal and Solaire Resort and Casino representative Ellan Mark Pailan said that the transfer will have a considerable impact on their business. They preferred that the general aviation operations remain in NAIA.</p> <p>Rep. Micaela Violago (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Nueva Ecija) proposed that the general aviation operations be transferred to Clark International Airport instead of Sangley Point Airport.</p>

Continuation... Transportation jt. w/ Games and Amusements				Several Members suggested improving the road connectivity between Clark and Manila and Sangley and Manila to encourage travelers to use these alternate gateways.
Ways and Means	Substitute Bill to HBs 303, 545, 2545, 2867, 2875, 3277, 4013, 4084, 4128, 4248, 4249, 4344, 4492 & 5480	Reps. Yap (V.), Enverga, Deputy Speakers Villafuerte, Romero, and Puno, Reps. Romualdez (Y.M.), Villarica, Torres-Gomez, Tan (A.S.), Garcia (J.E.), Tambunting, Velasco, and Speaker Cayetano	Establishing the National Academy of Sports System and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee, presided by its Senior Vice Chair, Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 <sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija), approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill to the 14 bills subject to style and amendment.
	Substitute Bill to HB 4263	Rep. Go (M.)	Establishing the Philippine Entrepreneur Academy and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the tax provisions of the Substitute Bill to HB 4263 subject to style and amendment.
	HB 178	Rep. Suansing (H.)	Imposing excise tax on single-use plastic bags, creating for the purpose Section 150-C of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended	<p>The Committee will deliberate further on HB 178 in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Eric Go Yap (Party-List, ACT-CIS) presided over the meeting to allow Rep. Estrellita Suansing, co-author of HB 178, to sponsor the bill.</p> <p>Rep. Suansing said that despite the enactment of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, the Philippines still remains as one of the countries with the highest amount of plastic bag waste ending up in oceans which poses detrimental effects to the environment. The bill seeks to address the proliferation of plastic bag waste by imposing a P10-excise tax for every kilo of single-use plastic bags removed from the place of production or released from the customs house, she said.</p> <p>Rep. Horacio Suansing Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat), principal author of HB 178, said that a bill with similar subject matter was thoroughly deliberated on during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.</p> <p>Philippine Plastic Industry Association Inc. President Willy Go suggested the lowering of the proposed P10-excise tax, explaining that the amount is too high which can affect the viability of many local plastic manufacturers.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Sergio Dagooc (Party-List, APEC) suggested that the bill should provide specifications, such as the thickness of the plastic bag, that will categorize the plastic bags that are for single-use only. He also said that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and local government units (LGUs)</p>

Continuation... Ways and Means				<p>must be involved in the implementation of the proposed law.</p> <p>On the other hand, Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr. (6<sup>th</sup> District, Manila) suggested a total ban on the manufacture of single-use plastic bags while taxing other reusable plastic products.</p> <p>Resource persons from the Department of Finance (DOF) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) expressed their support for the proposed law.</p>
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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)	Draft Substitute Bill to HBs 1886 & 1742	Rep. Vargas and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Strengthening the primary healthcare system in cultural and indigenous communities by institutionalizing for the purpose the training and employment of indigenous peoples health workers (IPHW), and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Leonardo Babasa Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur), will deliberate further on the draft substitute bill in its next meeting.</p> <p>Department of Health (DOH) senior health program officer Irene Hizon conveyed the DOH's support for the bill. She also requested the Committee to consider the Department's recommendations, particularly those pertaining to the appointment, deployment, training, and health coverage of IPHWs.</p> <p>National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) medical officer Angelica Cachola presented the agency's recommendations, with the request that these be included in the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The selection of IPHW should be in accordance with the system of decision making and participation being practiced by the ICCs/IPs.</li> <li>• The IPHW should undergo training on cultural sensitivity.</li> <li>• Proper monitoring and evaluation should be done to ensure the professional growth of IPHW.</li> </ul> <p>Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan (Party-List, AMIN) said that the NCIP, and not the DOH, should take the lead in the delivery of health services for ICCs and IPs explaining that the NCIP is in a better position to look after the welfare of these people. She also suggested that the funds for the implementation of the proposed law be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).</p> <p>However, Rep. Babasa said that the delivery of health services is under the jurisdiction of the DOH.</p> <p>Department of Education's (DepEd) IP Education Office head Maria Lourie Victor suggested that the IPHW should come from the ICCs/IPs themselves. In case no one from the ICCs/IPs is qualified, the non-IP health worker should have the knowledge of or be trained on the language, traditions and culture of the IP community where the IPHW will be assigned.</p>

Continuation... Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Technical Working Group)				The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will be invited to attend the Committee's next meeting on the bill.
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DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Economic Affairs	Discussion on the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sharon Garin (Party-List, AAMBIS-OWA), discussed with NEDA the PDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update.</p> <p>NEDA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Rosemarie Edillon informed the body that the NEDA Planning Committee, including its attached agencies, holds meetings to discuss and set their respective goals, strategies, programs and projects, and budget making sure that these are aligned with the PDP.</p> <p>Representatives of NEDA's attached agencies presented their respective mandates during the meeting. These agencies are the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Philippine National Volunteer Services Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, Tariff Commission (TC), Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI), and the Commission on Population (POPCOM).</p> <p>Replying to the query of Reps. Garin and France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) on NEDA's proposed "planning call," Edillon explained that the agency proposes that it be consulted by the departments and agencies during their annual budget preparations to ensure that their development plans are aligned with the PDP. She added that this is one of the reasons behind NEDA's request to be institutionalized and empowered to fully achieve its role as the lead integrator of the country's economic development programs and policies.</p> <p>In its previous meeting, the Committee approved HBs 79, 1310 and 4693 which seek to institutionalize NEDA as an independent economic and planning agency of the Philippines.</p> <p>On the query of Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon if the NEDA considers the priority agenda of the current administration in preparing and updating the PDP, Edillon replied in the affirmative. She explained that the President of the Philippines is the chair of the NEDA Board, while NEDA's Director General is the Vice Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Biazon asked NEDA to describe the <i>Ambisyon Natin 2040</i>. Edillon said it represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country in the next 25 years. It describes the kind of life that people want to live and how the country will be by 2040. Edillon also mentioned that NEDA started the visioning process in 2015 wherein focus group discussions, participated in by more than 300 Filipinos, were held; followed by a national survey involving close to 10,000 respondents. President Rodrigo Duterte officially adopted the <i>Ambisyon Natin 2040</i> as the country's guide for development planning through Executive Order No. 5 issued in October 2016.</p>