



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Constitutional Amendments	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to amendments or revisions of the Constitution."</p>
Ecology	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>A brief presentation was conducted highlighting the Committee's vision, environmental challenges and legislative agenda.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to ecosystem management including pollution control.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1st District, Parañaque City), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction over "all matters directly and principally relating to the creation, organization, operation, reorganization and amendments of charters of government-owned or controlled corporations including the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System and similar institutions, but excluding government-owned or controlled banks and financial institutions."</p>
Housing and Urban Development	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee's Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee's Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>Among the Committee's legislative agenda for the 18th Congress are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for a National Housing Development, Production and Financing Program;• Strengthening the power of government to expropriate lands for socialized housing;• Creating the position of a local housing officer and a one-stop processing center in every city and first to third class municipality;• Establishing a rental subsidy program; and• Institutionalizing an on-site, in-city, or near-city resettlement program. <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee has jurisdiction "over all matters relating to shelter delivery including services, and agencies and instrumentalities of government related thereto, and the management of urbanization issues and concerns such as, among others, urban planning and development, urban land reform and</p>

Continuation... Housing and Urban Development		welfare of the urban poor in the overall context of enhancing the quality of life of people in socially and environmentally sustainable urban communities.”
Information and Communications Technology	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee’s Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted and six subcommittees were created, to wit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcasting; • Telecommunications; • e-Commerce, e-Governance, and e-Services; • IT Education and Human Resource Development; • Cybercrime and IT Security; and • Oversight for Special Inquiries. <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee, which is composed of 55 Members, has jurisdiction over “all matters relating to postal, telegraph, radio, broadcast, cable and satellite television, telephone, mobile cellular networks, convergence, computers and telecommunications technologies including but not limited to broadband access to wired and wireless connectivity to the internet such as voice over internet protocol (VOIP), video conferencing, and audio/video/data streaming; any and all other public and private electronic means of capturing, processing, storing and transmitting information for information technology; information systems inclusive of hardware, software and content applications; mobile short messaging system (SMS) applications affecting upstream and downstream business applications; and networks that enable access to online technology.”</p>
Tourism	Organizational meeting and adoption of the Committee’s Internal Rules of Procedure	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Sol Aragones (3rd District, Laguna), held its organizational meeting during which the Committee’s Internal Rules of Procedure for the 18th Congress was adopted.</p> <p>It also created eight subcommittees each to be headed by the Committee vice chairpersons. The respective chairpersons of four of the six subcommittees were already designated, to wit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee on Plans and Programs – Rep. Manuel Zubiri (3rd District, Bukidnon); • Subcommittee on Development – Rep. Ronnie Ong (Party-List, ANG PROBINSYANO); • Subcommittee on Domestic Promotion – Aurora Rep. Rommel Rico Angara; and • Subcommittee on Oversight – Rep. Edgardo Chatto (1st District, Bohol). <p>The chairpersons of the following subcommittees will be named at a later date: Subcommittees on Standard and Services; International Promotion; Cultural Heritage; and Sustainability.</p> <p>Under the Rules of the House, the Committee, which is composed of 55 Members, has jurisdiction over “all matters directly and principally relating to the development and promotion of tourism both domestic and international.”</p> <p>Rep. Aragones reported that among the Committee’s accomplishments during the 17th Congress were the enactment of the following legislations declaring certain areas in the country as tourism zones or tourist destinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA 11365 – declaring the Balanga Wetland and Nature Park in Balanga City an ecotourism zone; • RA 11406 – declaring Mt. Bulaylay in the Municipality of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija a tourism destination; • RA 11407 – declaring the Candon City Ecotourism Zone in Candon City, Ilocos Sur a tourist destination;

Continuation... Tourism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA 11408 – declaring Santiago Cove in the Municipality of Santiago, Ilocos Sur a tourist destination; and RA 11409 – declaring Pinsal Falls in the Municipality of Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur a tourist destination. <p>Rep. Aragonese informed the body that there are about 80 bills, seeking the declaration of various areas in the country as tourism zones or destinations, which have been referred to the Committee.</p>
----------------------------	--	--

COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Appropriations	Substitute House Joint Resolution (HJR) to HJRs 9 and 10	Deputy Speaker Legarda and Rep. Zamora (R.)	Extending the availability of the 2019 appropriations for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and capital outlays (CO) to December 31, 2020	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Isidro Ungab (3rd District, Davao City), approved the substitute HJR subject to style and amendment and the corresponding Committee Report.</p> <p>Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (2nd District, Davao Oriental), co-author of the bill, pointed out that the delay in the passage of the 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the election ban on the implementation of infrastructure projects and social services in view of the May 13 national elections hindered the timely usage of the budget for MOOE and capital outlay of government agencies.</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda (Antique) added that some government agencies are not even aware of the exact amount of budget allocated to them, thus they are unable to fully utilize the same resulting in the expiration of the allocation.</p>
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HBs 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1125, 1126, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1727, 1728, 1931, 1932, 2162, 2408, 3234, 3264 & 3890	Reps. Tupas, Cabredo, Deputy Speaker Villafuerte, Reps. Dimaporo (A.), Suansing (E.), Sarmiento, Veloso, and Benitez	Establishing multispecies marine hatcheries in certain parts of the country and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to deliberate further on the 21 bills.</p> <p>Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr." Acosta (3rd District, Palawan) was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Rep. Cueva requested BFAR to submit its criteria for establishing multispecies marine hatcheries as well as the list of approved hatcheries in the country.</p>
	HB 2255	Rep. Alfonso	Establishing a fisheries research center in the Municipality of Abulug in the Second District of Cagayan and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 2407	Rep. Suansing (E.)	Establishing an aquatic research and experimental breeding station for lake, river, and other inland fishes in the first district of the Province of Nueva Ecija, and appropriating funds therefor	
Constitutional Amendments	HB 788	Rep. Biazon	Providing for the selection of an acting President and acting Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines in case of a failure of election	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2 nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), will deliberate further on the seven measures in its next meeting.

Continuation... Constitutional Amendments	House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Proposing amendments to certain provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines particularly on Articles VI, X, XII, XIV, and XVI	Many of the resource persons present during the meeting were supportive of proposals to amend certain provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.
	House Joint Resolution (HJR) 3	Rep. Cabochan	Proposing amendment to Section 16, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in order to limit the confirmation process of the Commission on Appointment for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to the positions of Chief-of-Staff of the AFP and service commanders of the Army, Air Force, and Navy only	Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER) Executive Director Ramon Casiple and Stratsearch Foundation Inc., (SSFI) Executive Director Clarita Carlos spoke of the merits of a federal form of government, which will balance the power between Manila and the regional governments.
	HJR 4	Deputy Speaker Gonzales	Calling upon members of Congress to convene for the purpose of considering proposals to amend or revise the Constitution, upon a vote of three-fourths of all members	Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) President Domingo Cayosa believes that the Constitution is a "living document" that needs to be amended to adapt to the changing times.
	Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) 1	Rep. Rodriguez	Constituting the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly to propose the revision of the 1987 Constitution by adopting a federal form of government	Those pushing for the amendment of the economic provisions of the Constitution to lift several restrictions on foreign investments assert that the entry of more foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country will boost the country's economic growth and generate more jobs for the Filipinos.
	RBH 2	Rep. Velasco	Proposing amendments to certain economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines particularly on Articles II, XIV & XVI	According to Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) fellow Margarito Teves, the country's restrictive economic policies have resulted in the Philippines lagging economically behind its Southeast Asian counterparts.
	RBH 3	Rep. Haresco	Proposing amendments to certain economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines	On the other hand, IBON Foundation Inc., Executive Director Jose Enrique Africa commented that such conventional wisdom on FDIs needs to be challenged. Africa explained that big foreign investors are largely unconcerned with protecting interests outside of their own, adding that they can very well compete in the global market. Prematurely and widely opening the country's economy to FDIs without its capability to directly compete with them would be detrimental to its long-term development. Africa claimed that there is now a growing trend towards more protectionist policies around the world. Similarly, Dr. Antonio Gabriel Laviña, former dean of the Ateneo School of Government, claimed that the current global trend is towards populism and neo-nationalism. He believes that liberalizing the country's economic policies would not serve its own interest but the interest of foreign business. Saying that liberalization should not be equated with deregulation, Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) Commissioner Johannes Bernabe said that in liberalizing the country's economic policies, the government should match this with progressive regulation to ensure the protection of the State and its citizenry. Reps. Lorenz Defensor (3 rd District, Iloilo) and France Castro (Party-List, ACT TEACHERS),

Continuation... Constitutional Amendments				<p>noting that other stakeholders were not represented during the meeting, recommended that additional consultations be held before these legislative measures are acted upon by the Committee.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit to the Committee their respective position papers on the measures.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	HBs 86, 221, 380, 529, 1501, 2681, 3026, 3921 & 3997	Reps. Garbin, Castro (F.L.), Zamora (M.), Paduano, Chatto, Silverio, Palma, Cagas, and Agabas	Lowering the optional retirement age of government employees	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1st District, Parañaque City), agreed to consolidate the nine bills and approved the same.</p> <p>A bill with similar subject matter was approved on third reading during the 17th Congress.</p> <p>Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), author of HB 86, and Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS), author of HB 221, explained the benefits of lowering the optional retirement age to 56. They said that retiring at this age is beneficial to government employees as they are still physically able and they will have more time to enjoy their retirement benefits.</p> <p>Representatives from the public teachers' groups, Department of Education (DepEd) Employees' Union, Governance Commission on GOCC (GCG), and the Civil Service Commission Public Sector Labor-Management Council expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>On the other hand, Government Service Insurance system (GSIS) Assistant Chief Legal Counsel Lucio Yu said that the reduction of the retirement age would shorten the contribution period and correspondingly decrease the retirement benefits. He also said that based on GISIS' latest actuarial study, the proposed law would effectively lower the life of its Social Insurance Fund by about 12 years.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	HBs 07, 122, 1542, 2827, 3010, 3240, 3471, 4350, & 4480	Speaker Cayetano, Reps. Arroyo (J.M.), Garbin, Rodriguez, Tupas, Salimbangon, Villaraza- Suarez, Deputy Speakers Santos-Recto and Romero	Creating the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	<p>The Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), Chair of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Rep. Ron Salo (Party-List, KABAYAN), for the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Batanes Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., for the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources.</p> <p>Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo (2nd District, Pampanga), author of HB 122, informed the Committee that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 17th Congress.</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources				<p>Rep. Raul "Boboy" Tupas (5th District, Iloilo), author of HB 3010, explained that his bill proposes the creation of the Department of Fisheries and Coastal Resources (DFCR) which shall have primary jurisdiction over the preservation, development, exploration, management, policy planning, and utilization of all fisheries and aquatic resources in the country.</p> <p>Rep. David "Jay-Jay" Suarez (2nd District, Quezon), author of HB 3471, said that the country should develop the full potential of its aquatic resources. He shared the experience of his district in successfully establishing a fish hatchery program, breeding different fish species such as <i>apahap</i>, <i>seabuzz</i>, <i>bangus</i> and <i>pampanok</i>. He added that government support is necessary to replicate and improve this kind of undertaking.</p> <p>Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) Office of Special Concerns OIC Director Benjamin Tabios expressed support for the bills saying that the proposed law is important in ensuring that the Philippines maintain its status of being one of the biggest producers of fishery resources in the world.</p> <p>Also in support of the bills were representatives from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Artisanal Fisherfolk Sectoral Council, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federation Inc., and Philippine Association of Fish Producers Inc.</p> <p>On the other hand, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Assistant Director Emelita Menghamal said that instead of creating a new department, BFAR's powers and functions may just be strengthened. She added that BFAR should fully implement its approved reorganizational plan to efficiently and effectively undertake its mandate.</p> <p>Likewise, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) National Chairperson Fernando Hicap opined that the creation of a new department does not assure the full development of the fisheries sector and will not stop the unwarranted reclamation and conversion of aquatic resources.</p>
Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways	HBs 193, 2514, 2586, 2997, 3512, 3656, 4026, 4098, 4329 & 4447	Reps. Suansing (E), Defensor, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Salceda, Aragon, Deputy Speaker Savellano, Reps. Biazon, Haresco, Olivarez, and	Creating the Department of Water Resources and Services and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas), Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Romeo Momo Sr. (Party-List, CWS), Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to study the bills further.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda (2nd District, Albay), for the</p>

Continuation... Government Reorganization jt. w/ Public Works and Highways		Deputy Speaker Hernandez		Committee on Government Reorganization, and Rep. Estrellita Suansing (1 st District, Nueva Ecija) for the Committee on Public Works and Highways.
	HBs 232, 1320, 1358, 2272, 2481, 2879, 2981, 3347, 3350, 3987, 4251 & 4654	Reps. Vargas, Vergara, Herrera-Dy, Salo, Tan (A.), Aumentado, Deputy Speaker Gonzales, Reps. Deloso- Montalla, Arroyo, Tupas, Tambunting, and Deputy Speaker Villafuerte	Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor	The proposed Department of Water Resources and Services, as explained by the bills' authors, will serve as the primary agency responsible for national policy-making, coordination, and management and preservation of all the water resources in the Philippines. The bills also seek to rationalize the water, irrigation, sewerage, and sanitation resources management.
	HBs 2172 & 4097	Reps. Herrera- Dy and Haresco	Rationalizing the economic regulation of water utilities, creating the Water Regulatory Commission	Top officials of government agencies involved in the management of water resources -- Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) Administrator Jeci Lapus, National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Sevilla David Jr., and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat -- expressed support for the bills.
	HB 2725	Rep. Nograles (J.J)	Ensuring water security by ordaining institutional and regulatory reforms in water through the creation of the Department of Water, the Water Regulatory Commission, and the National Water Corporation	Also in support of the bills were representatives from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).
	HBs 2887, 3172 & 3380	Reps. Nieto, Tolentino, and Sacdalan	Creating the Department of Water Resources Management and Development, defining its powers and functions, and appropriating funds therefor	They all agreed that the proposed Department will lead to better implementation of programs aimed at protecting the country's water resources, ensuring fair allocation and efficient use of water resources, and providing clean and stable supply of water, among others.
Information and Communications Technology	HB 4114	Rep. Villarica	Creating the National Water Resources Management Authority and appropriating funds therefor	
	HBs 62, 3563 & 4110	Reps. Yap (V.), Campos, and Abaya	Strengthening the powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), amending for the purpose RA 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Victor Yap (2 nd District, Tarlac), approved HB 62 in consolidation with HBs 3563 and 4110, subject to style.
	HBs 57 & 4109	Reps. Yap (V.) and Abaya	Promoting open access in data transmission, providing additional powers to the NTC	The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and harmonize the two bills and to incorporate therein the pertinent recommendations of the resource persons. Rep. Yap, author of HB 57, informed the body that a bill with similar subject matter was approved on Third Reading during the 17 th Congress. In explaining the merits of his bill, Rep. Yap said that allowing the entry of other players in data transmission services will result in lower costs and better quality of the service due to competition. This will also increase the chances of access to internet service by unserved communities in far-flung areas. NTC Deputy Commissioner Edgardo Cabarios suggested that the bill should carry a provision

Continuation... Information and Communications Technology				<p>requiring a 60-40% Filipino-foreign equity for data transmission providers, explaining that full ownership of the business by a foreign investor might pose a threat to the country's national security.</p> <p>The NTC, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), Philippine Cable Television Association Inc. (PCTA), and the Internet Society - Philippines Chapter (ISOC-PH), expressed their support for the bills.</p> <p>Representatives from Globe and Smart Telecom expressed their objection to the bills and asked for more time to review them. The two telecommunications companies noted that the proposed law will give rise to an asymmetric regulation of two related industries, pointing out that the bills seek to liberalize data transmission services but not the basic telephone service industry.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.</p>
Justice	HBs 339 & 1838	Reps. Romualdo and Rodriguez	Creating the Commission on Immigration, 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 Committee, chaired by Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso III (3rd District, Leyte), agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consolidate and fine tune the six bills, using HB 4103 as the working draft.</p> <p>Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. (Party-List, AKO BICOL), sat as the presiding officer during the meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st District, Albay) was designated as the TWG Chair.</p> <p>Lawmakers and resource persons from the BI and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) expressed support for the bills, all agreeing that the country's immigration system is already antiquated and needs to be revised and modernized to conform to the current standards.</p> <p>DFA Visa Division Director Melvin Almonte recommended that the proposed law should reflect the distinction between visa and immigration status and should clearly specify the role of the DFA in the evaluation process.</p> <p>BI Commissioner Jaime Morente asked that the Bureau be granted disciplinary powers over erring personnel under the proposed law. He explained that the Bureau only has a recommendatory power on the matter at present. He likewise requested that a provision on salary adjustment be also included in the proposed law.</p>
	HB 1666	Rep. Cabochan	Strengthening, professionalizing, and modernizing the Philippine immigration system, repealing for the purpose Commonwealth Act 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, and appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4103	Rep. Rodriguez	Modernizing the Bureau of Immigration (BI), 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	
	HB 4178	Rep. Haresco	Reorganizing the BI, creating the Immigration Act of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor	
	HB 4791	Deputy Speaker Hernandez	Modernizing the BI, 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	

Continuation... Justice				The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for consideration by the TWG.
Metro Manila Development	HBs 4111, 4124, 4698 & 2418	Reps. Lopez (M.L.), Belmonte, Nieto, and Castelo	Mandating the establishment and maintenance of a rainwater harvesting facility in all new institutional, commercial, and residential development projects in Metro Manila	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), directed the Secretariat to consolidate the four bills.</p> <p>The approval of the consolidated bill will be pursuant to Sec. 48 of the House Rules which states that priority bills which were approved on Third Reading in the previous Congress "may be disposed of as matters already reported out upon the approval of the majority of the Members of the Committee present, there being a quorum."</p>
Natural Resources	HB 345	Rep. Romualdo	Simplifying the procedure in the disposition of public agricultural lands, amending for the purpose Section 24 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. (4 th District, Cavite), approved the seven bills subject to style and amendment.
	HB 4119	Rep. Villarica	Reverting fishponds which have been unutilized or abandoned for a period of three years to forestlands, amending for the purpose Section 43 of PD 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines	
	HBs 531, 675, 1780 & 1798	Reps. Paduano, Abueg-Zaldivar, Eriguel, and Gullas	Declaring/reclassifying certain parcels of land of the public domain as agricultural/alienable and disposable lands located in certain parts of the country	
	HB 3861	Rep. Salimbangon	Rationalizing the management of the natural resources located in the Municipalities of Bantayan, Madridejos, and Sta. Fe, all in the Province of Cebu, amending for the purpose PD 2151, or the law declaring certain islands and/or parts of the country as wilderness areas	
Transportation	HR 353	Rep. Sarmiento	Recommending the creation of a Traffic Crisis Inter-Agency Management Council for the purpose of consolidating and harmonizing all transport and traffic policies to address the urgent traffic crisis in Metro Manila and in the Philippines	<p>The Committee, Chaired by Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento (1st District, Samar), adopted HR 353.</p> <p>The Departments of Transportation (DOTr), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Land Transportation Office, and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) expressed their support on the measure.</p>
	HBs 861, 2590, 2659, 2674, 3133, 3286, 4340, 4560 & 4610	Deputy Speaker Hernandez, Reps. Acosta, Dy (I.P.), Tallado, Acosta-Alba, De Leon Ferrer, Caminero, and Savellano	Creating regular Land Transportation Office (LTO)/Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) district offices/branches in certain parts of the country, and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the nine bills.

Continuation... Transportation	HBs 1381, 1611, 2106 & 4597	Rep. Castro, Deputy Speaker Gonzales, Reps. Aumentado and Baronda	Converting LTO extension offices located in certain parts of the country into regular LTO district offices and appropriating funds therefor	The Committee approved the four bills.
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	--	--

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources	Briefing on the mandate, plans and programs of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Leo Rafael Cueva (2nd District, Negros Occidental), listened to the presentation of the BFAR on its mandate, and plans and programs for the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Fisheries and BFAR National Director Eduardo Gongona said that the Bureau's mandate is to ensure the development, improvement, management, and conservation of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources. It was reconstituted as a line bureau by virtue of RA 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code.</p> <p>According to Gongona, the performance of the country's fisheries sector slumped to -6.31% in 2016 but it steadily recovered to reach 1.04% in 2018 and is expected to rise further to 2% in 2020. Gongona attributes this positive growth rate primarily to the implementation of the 2016-2020 Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan (CNFIDP).</p> <p>At present, 40% of the country's fish production are sourced from aquaculture (fish farming) and 60% from capture fishery (traditional fishing). Gongona also said that various programs are being implemented by BFAR for municipal capture (near-shore fishing) and commercial capture (distant fishing) fisheries.</p> <p>Several programs, such as hatcheries and mariculture parks, are also being implemented by BFAR to develop and produce five high potential fish commodities, bangus, tilapia, shrimp, shellfish and seaweeds.</p> <p>Replying to the query of several Members on the establishment of hatcheries, Gongona said that BFAR recommends the establishment of one standard hatchery per region which will cost P26 million per hatchery depending on the site's assessment.</p> <p>BFAR said that it hopes to reduce post-harvest losses by at least 10% next year by establishing more post-harvest facilities to accommodate bigger volume of fishery products and acquiring additional equipment including ice-making machines. Gongona added that an increase in fish production is expected given Malacañang's directive to all government instrumentalities involved in environment, maritime and fisheries to protect the 24 major fishing grounds within the country's municipal waters.</p> <p>Gongona also mentioned that the first Fisheries Food Summit will be held on September 27-28, 2019 at the SMX Convention Center in Manila. In this event, fisheries stakeholders nationwide will come together to craft an action plan, aligned with the "new thinking" approach on fisheries, towards increasing productivity and income for the fisherfolk.</p>
Government Enterprises and Privatization	Briefing on the status and accomplishments of the government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCC) sector by the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG)	The Committee, chaired by Rep. Eric Olivarez (1 st District, Parañaque City), listened to the presentation of the GCG on the status and accomplishments of the GOCC sector.

Continuation... Government Enterprises and Privatization		<p>Under RA 10149 (GOCC Governance Act of 2011), the GCG acts as a central advisory, monitoring, and oversight body mandated to safeguard the State's ownership rights, ensure the financial viability of the GOCC, and ensure that the latter's operations are transparent and responsive to the needs of the public.</p> <p>GCG Director Johann Carlos Barcena said there are 120 GOCCs under GCG's jurisdiction, with total assets valued at P7.95 trillion and consolidated revenues at P1.38 trillion. Dividend remittances by the GOCC sector, representing 50% of net income, reached P31.21 billion in 2016, P40.18 billion in 2017, and P40.18 billion in 2018.</p> <p>GCG uses the "fit and proper rule" in evaluating the performance of the GOCCs. Barcena reported that the GCG has recommended 30 GOCCs for abolition and 3 for privatization, and classified 23 as inactive and undergoing assessment for possible abolition.</p> <p>Rep. Wes Gatchalian (1st District, Valenzuela City) requested the GCG to submit a detailed information on problematic GOCCs, while Rep. France Castro (Party-List, ACT-TEACHERS) asked for a copy of GCG's performance report on PhilHealth.</p>
Housing and Urban Development	<p>Briefing on the mandates and functions of the following government housing agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) National Housing Authority (NHA) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Strike Revilla (2nd District, Cavite), listened to the presentation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and its attached agencies on their mandates and functions.</p> <p>Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Director Zacarias Abanes reported that with the signing of the implementing rules and regulations of RA 11201 or the law creating the DHSUD on July 19, 2019, the department is expected to be fully operational by January 1, 2020.</p> <p>RA 11201 consolidates the administrative functions of the HUDCC, and the regulatory functions of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB). According to Abanes, the newly-created DHSUD is the primary national government entity responsible for the management of housing, human settlement, and urban development. The Department shall exercise administrative supervision over the following attached housing agencies for purposes of policy and program coordination, monitoring and evaluation: National Housing Authority (NHA), National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), and Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).</p> <p>Abanes also reported that from 2017-2022, the estimated housing units needed would reach 6.57 million which might increase to as high as 22.61 million by year 2040. The factors contributing to the growing housing problem are: rapid population growth rate, increasing number of informal settler families (ISFs) due to urbanization, adverse impact of climate change wherein housing units are damaged by calamities, limited annual appropriation for the housing sector, limited supply of government land for residential use, and bureaucratic red tape.</p> <p>HLURB Commissioner Melzar Galicia said that under the new department, the HLURB was reconstituted to be known as the Human Settlements Adjudication Commission, retaining its adjudication powers but not its regulatory and planning functions.</p> <p>NHA Assistant General Manager Froilan Kampitan explained that the NHA is in-charge of resettlement programs for ISFs, including those affected by the Supreme Court's mandamus to clean up the Manila Bay area; housing projects for government employees and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP); and housing program for calamity victims.</p>

<p>Continuation... Housing and Urban Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) • National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) • Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF or Pag-IBIG) 	<p>Kampitan manifested that the NHA will soon submit a legislative proposal for the renewal of its charter.</p> <p>SHFC President Arnolfo Ricardo Cabling said that the SHFC is mandated to implement the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) - a program designed to assist legally organized associations of residents of blighted or depressed areas to own the lots they occupy, providing them security of tenure and eventually improve their neighborhood and homes to the extent of their affordability. Cabling asked the help of Congress to enact a charter specifically for the SHFC in place of Executive Order 272, series of 2004, which created the SHFC.</p> <p>NHMFC President Felixber Bustos pointed out the limitation in the NHFMC's old charter wherein it can only handle amortization and mortgages, unlike its Asian counterparts which deal with other housing finance projects. Bustos requested Congress to pass a law amending NHMFC's 43-year old charter.</p> <p>HDMF President Acmad Rizaldy Moti reported that in 2018, the agency recorded the highest collection from its members which is now at P40.3 billion, compared to the P36 billion collections in the previous two years. He observed that the members are now voluntarily placing their hard-earned savings to the fund, which will allow the HDMF to deploy more funds for the housing needs of its members.</p> <p>Also for the same year, the HDMF had set the highest record on the amount of housing loans released, P75.3 billion; income earned, P48.4 million; and dividend payout, P28.23 billion.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, Rep. Bayani Fernando (1st District, Marikina City) asked HUDCC to compare the costs of relocating ISFs to areas outside Metro Manila as against the in-city relocation which entails the construction of high-rise buildings. Abanes promised to submit a computation for these two schemes.</p> <p>Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" Mariño (5th District, Batangas) asked how the local government unit (LGU) can access the socialized housing fund if it plans to put up a multi-level housing project in its area.</p> <p>HLURB Commissioner Marylin Pintor said that an LGU has to shoulder 15% of the cost of the housing project or make available 15% of the area needed for socialized housing. The LGU also has to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the HLURB and HUDCC, and in the present situation, with the DHSUD.</p> <p>The Committee directed the HLURB to submit a report on the existing policies on the utilization of the socialized housing fund held in escrow. The HLURB allows the private developers to undertake socialized housing projects by requiring them to deposit the amount of their participation in an escrow trust account with Pag-IBIG or any commercial bank.</p> <p>Rep. Micaela Violago (2nd District, Nueva Ecija) expressed dismay at the NHA's inefficient collection system. NHA Head of Operations Victo Balba admitted that the agency's collection level is just at 38%. Nevertheless, he said that the NHA is constantly improving its strategies to improve its collection performance, such as the implementation of a loan condonation program to allow delinquent payors to settle their financial obligations with the agency.</p> <p>The Committee directed NHA to submit the inventory of its properties in the National Capital Region (NCR), a report on the grant of financial assistance related to the relocation of ISFs living along the waterways and danger areas; and a report on the status and timeline of the housing programs for the families affected by the Bohol earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda.</p>
--	--	---

DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES/ENTITIES		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Ecology	Discussion with Manila Water Co. Inc. and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on the status of their compliance with the Clean Water Act, particularly the requirement to install sewerage systems in their service areas	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte), listened to the report of Manila Water and MWSS on the status of their compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, particularly the requirement to install sewerage systems and wastewater treatment in their service areas.</p> <p>Manila Water's Operations Division head Donna Perez informed the body that at present, 40 wastewater treatment facilities are being operated by Manila Water, one of the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila. Perez also said that Manila Water's treatment capacity has increased from 40 million liters per day in 1997 to 310 million liters per day in 2019, serving over six million people in the east zone of Metro Manila.</p> <p>Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao asked if Manila Water is recycling wastewater after treatment. Perez replied in the negative saying that after treatment, the water is discharged to the nearest body of water like the Pasig, San Juan and Marikina rivers. Perez mentioned that there is an existing technology for recycling wastewater for human consumption but the cost is too high.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. Labadlabad if MWSS intends to acquire such technology, MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Ty said that it will seriously consider buying one but will have to wait until the price goes down.</p>
	Discussion with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the handling and disposal of imported waste cargos misdeclared as recyclables and raw materials	<p>BOC Environmental Protection Unit Chief Allen Dela Cruz presented the BOC operational guidelines on the monitoring, handling, apprehension and seizure of hazardous/nuclear wastes and other waste materials misdeclared as recyclable and raw materials under Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 38-2019.</p> <p>Rep. Jocelyn Fortuno (5th District, Camarines Sur) remarked that while the guidelines of the Bureau may seem to be well crafted, gaps in the system are still evident given the recent reports on smuggling of waste materials into the country.</p> <p>BOC Deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval informed the body that CMO No. 38-2019 institutionalized the creation of the Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD), a special unit at the BOC that is tasked to monitor and control the entry of hazardous substances and other wastes into the country. However, Raval pushed for the enactment of a law that will make the EPCD a permanent division within BOC since it is only an <i>ad hoc</i> unit at present.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon recommended that Congress should authorize the BOC to utilize a certain percentage of its collections to set up the proposed environmental protection and compliance division.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba (1st District, Bukidnon) asked the DENR if its plan to ban imported waste was already implemented.</p> <p>DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that the Department, upon consultation with stakeholders, has decided to temporarily suspend the ban until more appropriate guidelines are put in place. Leones also said that the DENR took into consideration the many sectors that will be affected by the ban including those who need recyclable wastes for their business undertakings.</p>

Continuation... Ecology		<p>Rep. Jose "Bong" Teves Jr. (Party-List, TGP) inquired on the implementation of RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), particularly the submission of solid waste management plans by local government units (LGUs). Leones replied that 94% of LGUs have already complied.</p> <p>On the motion of Rep. Eufemia "Ka Femia" Cullamat (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA), the Committee agreed to conduct a <i>motu proprio</i> investigation into the compliance of the mining sector and other entities engaged in extractive activities with the Clean Water Act, Environmental Impact Assessment Law, and other applicable environmental laws.</p>
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the issues affecting several barangays in the City of Manila along the alignments of North Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Expressway (NLEX-SLEX) connector road and North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) projects	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez (1st District, Manila), will continue its discussion on the problems being faced by several barangays in the City of Manila relative to the implementation of the NLEX-SLEX connector road project and the NSCR project.</p> <p>NLEX Corporation's Senior Vice President Romulo Quimbo said that the NLEX-SLEX connector road project involves the construction and maintenance of an eight-kilometer elevated expressway over the Philippine National Railway (PNR) right of way. It starts from the C3 Road in Caloocan through Manila crossing España towards Sta. Mesa.</p> <p>Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center Director Alex Bote said that the project was awarded to Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) in September 2016 through a contract with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the project's implementing agency. Under the contract, the MPTC is tasked to conceptualize and prepare the project design while the government will validate the design and facilitate the project's right-of-way (ROW).</p> <p>Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda (4th District, Manila) expressed concern for the thousands of homeowners as well as informal settler families (ISFs) who will be greatly affected by the impending demolition of houses to give way to the project.</p> <p>Venting the sentiments of affected residents, Sampaloc People's Alliance president Emil Pineda said that they are being forcibly evicted from their properties without due process and just compensation. He likewise questioned the unwarranted expansion of the coverage area of the project from 15 meters to 30 meters from both sides of the PNR's rail tracks to purportedly accommodate the parallel connector road project. He claimed that this has drawn fears, anxiety and sleepless nights to many homeowners and their children whose houses are located adjacent to the rails.</p>