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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

PREPARED BY THE
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SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SESSION NO. 66
Monday, May 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr., led the prayer, to wit:

Panginoong Diyos Ama, kasabay ng aming pananampalataya sa Iyo ang aming pasasalamat sa walang hanggang pagpapalang kaloob Mo sa amin sa araw-araw, tanda ng Iyong lubos na pagmamahal. We glorify Your Name for being our constant stronghold on which we depend on.

Panginoon, Kayo po ang umpisa at ang dulo. Sa Inyo nagmula ang lahat ng biyayang tinatamasa namin at Kayo rin po ang lunas sa lahat ng mga pagsubok sa buhay. Naninikluhod po kami sa Inyo upang muli ay pakinggan Ninyo ang Inyong bayan. Sa gitna ng naglalagablab na init na dulot ng krisis sa klima at hagupit ng El Niño, kami ay nagsusumamo sa Inyong pagsagip sa amin mula sa nakaambang pagdurusang dulot nito.

Muli rin po kaming kumakatok sa Inyong sagradong puso at humihiling na kami ay balutin ng Inyong banal na dugo upang masalag kami mula sa patuloy na panganib na dulot ng COVID-19, lalo sa panahong ito na dumarami na naman ang nagkakasakit. Palitan Ninyo po ang aming pangamba ng pananampalatayang walang hagupit ng pagsubok na hindi Ninyo kayang puksain.

Buong pagpapakumbaba po naming hinihiling na palitan Ninyo ang puyos ng tagtuyot at peligro sa kalusugan, ng init at higpit Ninyong yakap. Lord, please hear our prayers. Strengthen our spirit and nourish our resilience so that our nation will be reminded that there is no adversity that Your power cannot overcome.

Kumakapit po kami sa Inyo at isinusuko ang lahat ng aming pag-aalinlangan at takot, gayundin ang aming mga dalangin at pangarap. Lahat po ng ito ay itinataas namin sa Inyo, sa Ngalan ng Inyong banal na kalooban.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The University of Makati Chorale and its conductor, Mrs. Maria Carmina Ramos, led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song composed by Gary Granada, entitled “Bahay.”

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Renato N. Bantug Jr., called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, P. S.	Marcos, I. R.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Padilla, R. C.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Estrada, J. E.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Gatchalian, W.	Tulfo, R. T.
Go, C. L. T.	Villanueva, J.
Hontiveros, R.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 20 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Cayetano (A) arrived after the roll call.

Senators Villar (C) and Villar (M) were absent as per their travel order dated March 22, 2023 and May 4, 2023, respectively.

Senator Poe was absent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the guests from Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro: Mayor Aristeo A. Baldos Jr., Vice Mayor Rodolfo Magsino, and the Sanguniang Bayan members.

Upon welcoming the guests to the Senate, Senate President Zubiri mentioned that he and Senator Villanueva had paid a visit to Oriental Mindoro the previous week. Senator Villanueva confirmed that they had traveled to the towns of Naujan and Mansalay to extend support to the local communities.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2036, entitled

**AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING IN ALL SETTINGS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality;
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 2037, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE PROVINCIAL AND SUB-PROVINCIAL JAILS TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 2038, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND SEISMOLOGY (PHIVOLCS), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2039, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING MONEY MULES AND OTHER FRAUDULENT ACTS INVOLVING BANK ACCOUNTS, E-WALLETS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2040, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TUBERCULOSIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10767 OR THE "COMPREHENSIVE TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION PLAN ACT"

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2041, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2042, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF SECURITY PERSONNEL ENGAGED TO COMMIT MURDER, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ANY PERSON WHO RECRUIT, MAINTAIN, USE, AID, FUND, OR TRAIN SECURITY PERSONNEL TO COMMIT MURDER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 2043, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE RECONCILIATION AND COMMISSION FOR THE BANGSAMORO, ESTABLISHING A TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM FOR THE BANGSAMORO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2044, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Basic Education; Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2045, entitled

AN ACT TO REFORM THE BUDGET PROCESS BY ENFORCING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM), PROMOTING FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, STRENGTHENING CONGRESS' POWER OF THE PURSE, INSTITUTING AN INTEGRATED PFM SYSTEM, INCREASING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 2046, entitled

AN ACT REVITALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY

THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING PANDEMICS AND PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY PURSUANT THERETO AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2047, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH DECREED ANNULMENT

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 2048, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 140 (A), (C) AND (E) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2049, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING MICROINSURANCE POLICIES FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX, TAX ON LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 108, 109, 123, 183, 184, 185, 186, AND 187 OF THE "NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2050, entitled

AN ACT CRAFTING A NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY AND PRESCRIBING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPING, COORDINATING, AND IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Women Family Relations and Gender Equality; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2051, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMEN TO RETAIN THEIR MAIDEN SURNAMES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 370 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality.

Senate Bill No. 2052, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYEE AND PATIENT NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS IN HOSPITALS

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 2053, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE PHILIPPINE AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PADC) BY ANOTHER FIFTY (50) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 286, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A PHILIPPINE AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2054, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10631, PROVIDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE AND GOVERN ITS OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2055, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FREE TERTIARY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, AND OTHER RELATED COURSES TO ALL DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF QUALIFIED INDIGENT FARMERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2056, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING LOCAL ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY CORPORATE TAX BREAKS AND EXEMPTING VENUE OPERATORS FROM THE PAYMENT OF AMUSEMENT TAX WHEN SHOWING LOCALLY PRODUCED FILMS AND MUSIC EVENTS FEATURING FILIPINO ARTISTS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2057, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY KAPATAGAN IN THE CITY OF DIGOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, AN ECOTOURISM SITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Tourism; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2058, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MENTAL HEALTH ACT," TO INCORPORATE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADOLESCENTS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 2059, entitled

ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Youth; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2060, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ANTI-DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND BARANGAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2061, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE HOST CITY SHARE ON THE EARNINGS OF THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CHARTER OF PAGCOR," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committees on Games and Amusement; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2062, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO INCLUDE BENEFIT PACKAGE TO ALL MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2063, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SLEEP DISORDER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 2064, entitled

AN ACT FOR THE REALLOCATION OF UNUSED SPECTRUM FOR DISTANCE LEARNING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Public Services; Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2065, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE REGIONAL SPECIALTY CENTER IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HOSPITALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2066, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTIONS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ADEQUATE MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2067, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AUTOMATIC INCOME CLASSIFICATION OF PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2068, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Public Works; Economic Affairs; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution of Both Houses No. 4, entitled

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 18 OF ARTICLE VII OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision Of Codes

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 558, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PENCAK SILAT TEAM FOR BAGGING A TOTAL OF TEN (10) MEDALS - TWO (2) GOLD, TWO (2) SILVER, AND SIX (6) BRONZE - AT THE 2023 SARAWAK PREMIER INTERNATIONAL SILAT CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT THE STADIUM PERPADUAN, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 559, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BOUNDARY DISPUTES AMONG SEVERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE PROVINCES OF BUKIDNON AND NORTH COTABATO, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PRESERVING THE PEACE AND ORDER IN THE AREA AND UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW IN SETTLING THESE DISPUTES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Local Government; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 560, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS OF UNPROFESSIONALISM AND INEFFICIENCY HOUNDING THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION FOR ITS CONDUCT OF DEPARTURE PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR INTERNATIONAL-BOUND PASSENGERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STREAMLINING, PROFESSIONALIZING, AND MODERNIZING THE AGENCY'S PROCESSES AND OPERATIONS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 561, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MEASURES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID POSSIBLE WATER SHORTAGE IN METRO MANILA AND OTHER AFFECTED AREAS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 562, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CONDITION OF THE FACILITIES IN THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH TO SUPPORT PATIENTS' RECOVERY WITH AN END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT PATIENTS RECEIVE PROPER CARE AND HOLDING THOSE RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 563, entitled

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPPINE TEAM FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE IN THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OPEN FOR YOUNG ACHIEVERS (IMOYA) HELD IN SINGAPORE

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 564, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) ON THE 6.7 BILLION MANILA DRUG BUST WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LAYING DOWN A SYSTEM THAT WOULD NOT ONLY PREVENT CIRCUMVENTION OF RULES IN ORDER TO EVADE LIABILITY, BUT WOULD LIKEWISE ENSURE FULL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 565, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY DUE TO THE SEVERE IMPACT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) ON THE SWINE INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 566, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING INCIDENTS OF ILLICIT TRADE ON EXCISABLE PRODUCTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ABATING THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLICIT TRADE BY INTRODUCING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION AS MAY BE NECESSARY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 567, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE APPARENT INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE PROVISION OF THE CREATE LAW GRANTING INCENTIVES TO REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES VIS-A-

VIS ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND OTHER
ISSUANCES ISSUED IN RELATION THERETO

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 568, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE RAINWATER COLLECTOR AND SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Public Works

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 569, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RESULTS OF
THE 2021 FINANCIAL INCLUSION SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE BANGKO
SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Letter of His Excellency President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., dated 14 March 2023,
certifying to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 1869, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DISEASE PREVENTION
AND CONTROL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in order to address the need for a sufficiently funded and equipped epidemiology and
surveillance body. The bill also aims to provide effective measures to control and prevent
diseases, which include engaging in global and local health surveillance of current and
emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases.

To the Committee on Rules

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2069, entitled

AN ACT RENAMING THE AGHAM ROAD AND THE BIR ROAD, STRETCHING
FROM NORTH AVENUE, TRAVERSING THROUGH QUEZON AVENUE, UP
TO EAST AVENUE, ALL LOCATED IN QUEZON CITY, AS SENATOR
MIRIAM P. DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO AVENUE

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 2070, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY POSITION FOR A HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454, AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2071, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT SYSTEM (NMS) OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2072, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, CREATING A LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Basic Education; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2073, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-WILDLIFE SPECIES PROGRAM" AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2074, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES," BY REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO INSTITUTE A REFUND MECHANISM
FOR SERVICE OUTAGES AND DISRUPTIONS

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 2075, entitled

AN ACT DIGITIZING ALL BOOKS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on Basic Education; Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2076, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF BASIC ROAD SAFETY AND COMPRE-
HENSIVE DRIVER'S EDUCATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

**To the Committees on Basic Education; Public Services; Ways and Means; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 2077, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BALIKBAYAN HUB,
AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) RESTING LOUNGE, IN ALL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS WHICH CATER FLIGHTS TO AND OUT OF
THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Migrant Workers; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2078, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING THE FINANCIAL LITERACY OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS (OFWS), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Migrant Workers

Senate Bill No. 2079, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO
WAIVE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES TO UNDER-
PRIVILEGED GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF
THEIR GRADUATING CLASS

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Basic Education

Senate Bill No. 2080, entitled

AN ACT IDENTIFYING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, MANDATING SUPPORT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, THEREBY CREATING THE ISABELA TOURISM COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committees on Tourism; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2081, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING TRANSPARENCY IN THE PHILIPPINE DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8479 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY DEREGULATION ACT"

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Energy; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2082, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE SALARY GRADE OF DENTISTS EMPLOYED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Health and Demography; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 570, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 571, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPLIANCE OF PHILIPPINE-REGISTERED VESSELS WITH THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS ACT

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 572, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER SECRETARY ALBERT DEL ROSARIO SR. AND HIS WORK THAT GAVE THE PHILIPPINES ITS LANDMARK VICTORY AGAINST CHINA IN THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION IN THE HAGUE

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 573, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED BREACH OF THE DATABASE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH STORE PERSONAL DATA OF BOTH EMPLOYEES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF AUDITING THE EXTENT AND IMPACT OF THE BREACH, AND ENACTING POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN CYBERSECURITY

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 574, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE UNPRECEDENTED MASSIVE PERSONAL DATA BREACH OF THE DATABASES OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AND OTHER AGENCIES, WHICH LEAKED MORE THAN ONE MILLION PERSONAL AND SENSITIVE RECORDS OF LAW ENFORCERS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS IN VIOLATION OF DATA PRIVACY, CYBERCRIME, AND OTHER LAWS

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 575, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON AIRLINE PASSENGERS' COMPLAINTS AGAINST CEBU PACIFIC FOR OVERBOOKING, OFFLOADING AND BOOKING GLITCHES, WITH THE PURPOSE OF CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS AND CONSIDER MEASURES ON HOW AFFECTED CUSTOMERS SHOULD BE COMPENSATED

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Tourism; and Public Services

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1615 ON THIRD READING

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 1615, copies of which were electronically distributed to the senators on March 27, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AS THE "BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING."

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Lapid
Binay	Legarda
Cayetano (A)	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Revilla
Escudero	Tolentino
Estrada	Tulfo
Gatchalian	Villanueva
Go	Zubiri
Hontiveros	

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 21 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 1615 approved on Third Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 3:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 65 (March 23, 2023) and considered it approved.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 564

Upon motion of Senator Tolentino, there being no objection, the Chair referred Proposed Senate Resolution No. 564 to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs instead of the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 6:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 11 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1480

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1480 (Committee Report No. 11), entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE DISABILITY PENSION OF VETERANS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, ENTITLED, AN
ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY
VETERANS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES, AS AMENDED.

Senator Villanueva stated that the parliamentary status was the period of amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Estrada, sponsor of the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no committee amendment, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.



ESTRADA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Estrada, there being no objection, the following amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other:

1. On page 3, line 5, delete the phrase "without a service-connected";
2. On the same page, line 6, delete the word "disability";
3. On the same page and same line, after the number "70," insert the phrase AND NOT RECEIVING DISABILITY PENSION UNDER THIS ACT.
4. On the same page, line 7, delete the word "totally"; and
5. On the same page, lines 16 and 17, replace the phrase "current year's available appropriations of the Philippine Veterans Office" with PENSION AND GRATUITY FUND.

Senator Estrada explained that the amendments were in line with the intervention of Senator Pimentel during the period of interpellations which clarified the provision about the monthly disability pension entitlement of veterans who reach the age of 70.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no other amendment, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1408 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1480 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1480

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1806

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1806 (Committee Report No. 20), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF TAXPAYERS, CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Villanueva stated that the parliamentary status was the period of individual amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Gatchalian, sponsor of the measure.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

As proposed by the following senators, there being no objection, the following amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other:

By Senator Gatchalian

Page 1

1. On line 8, delete the comma (,) after word “responsibly,” and the succeeding phrase “with due regard for taxpayer’s rights”;

Page 2

2. On line 25, replace the word “Notwithstanding” with the phrase WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO;
3. On line 26, insert the word OTHER between the words “the” and “rights”;

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4. On line 2, after the words “in all courts,” replace the period (.) with a colon (:), and add the proviso *PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL AMEND, MODIFY, OR REPEAL THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED LAWS.*;
5. On the same page, line 3, replace the word “Accordingly” with the words *PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT.*

Senator Gatchalian said that the amendment would clarify that the enactment of the measure shall not result in the repeal or modification of existing laws. For instance, he said that Section 5(g) on the right against baseless assessment shall not mean that the power of the commissioner of internal revenue to issue assessment based on best evidence obtainable as provided for under Section 6(b) of the Tax Code, as amended, would be cancelled or diminished. In addition, he stated that Section 5(i) on the right to avail of installment payments shall not be construed as granting the right to pay in installment any type of taxes since the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act does not currently provide for installment payments.

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6. On line 9, replace the word “Information” with the words BE INFORMED;
7. On line 12, delete the word “and” between the words “regulations and “procedures”;
8. On the same line, insert the proviso AND OTHER ISSUANCES between the words “procedures” and “as”;
9. On line 16, insert a comma (,) after the word “findings” and delete the word “or” between the word “findings” and “alleged”;
10. On the same line, insert the phrase or ANY DECISIONS OR RULINGS RENDERED BY THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES between the word “violations” and the article “the”;
11. On lines 16 and 17, delete the phrase “have the right to” between the words “shall” and “be”;
12. On line 17, insert the phrase INFORMED IN THE WRITTEN DECISION OR RULING between the words “be” and “clearly”;
13. On line 22, delete the phrase “Unless prejudicial to the government,” and change to uppercase the first letter of the article “the”;
14. On line 25, after the third paragraph, insert a new proviso, to read as follows:

THE SERVICE OF THE NOTICES AND DECISIONS TO THE TAXPAYERS SHALL BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.
15. On line 26, insert a comma (,) after the word “fair” and insert the word UNIFORM between the word “fair” and the article “the”;
16. On line 27, insert a comma (,) after the word “fair” and insert the word UNIFORM between the word “fair” and the article “the”;
17. On line 29, after Section 5(b), insert a new Section 5(c) that reads:

C) *THE RIGHT TO PAY NO MORE THAN THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF TAX. – THE*

TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO PAY ONLY THE AMOUNT OF TAX LEGALLY DUE, INCLUDING INTEREST AND PENALTIES.

Page 4

18. On line 1, after the word "authorities," replace the comma (,) with a period (.) and delete the phrase "unless otherwise provided by law";
19. On line 3, insert a new proviso to read as follows:

THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD AND THAT THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE TAXPAYER BEFORE THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES BE DULY CONSIDERED BY THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES IN DECIDING ANY MATTER INVOLVING THE TAXPAYER.

20. On line 4, insert a new paragraph Section 5 (3) to read as follows:

E) *RIGHT TO FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES.*
 – THE TAXPAYER SHALL AT ALL TIMES BE ENTITLED TO A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL DISPOSITIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT CASES, DEFICIENCY FINDINGS, REQUESTS FOR RULINGS, DECISIONS AND OTHER DISPOSITIONS MADE BY THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE TAXPAYER.

By Senator Tolentino

Page 4

21. On line 14, after the word "proceedings," a semicolon (;) and the proviso *PROVIDED, THAT ANY COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED OR EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE TAXPAYER AND THE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL THAT THEY ENGAGE SHALL BE CONSIDERED STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR UNDER EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.*

Senator Tolentino stated that lawyer-client relationship has the highest fiduciary character aside from the confidentiality of privileged communication which shall always be maintained.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Gatchalian, the session was suspended.

It was 6:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

Senator Tolentino stated that his amendment would be inserted instead in paragraph (g) on page 5, line 6. Senator Gatchalian accepted the amendment and, there being no objection, the same was approved by the Body.

Senator Gatchalian stated that the subparagraphs should be relettered accordingly.

By Senator Gatchalian

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22. On line 20, after the word "completion," insert the words AND FINALITY;
23. On line 22, replace the acronym "BIR" with the words REVENUE AUTHORITIES;
24. On line 24, insert a new sentence to read as follows:

THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHEN THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES HAVE COMPLETED AN AUDIT OR EXAMINATION OF THE TAXPAYER.;

25. On line 25, delete the phrase "Except in cases allowed by law," and change the first letter of the article "the" to uppercase;
26. On line 27, after the word "revenue," replace the word "examiners" with AUTHORITIES;

Page 5

27. Delete lines 19 and 20, and in lieu thereof, insert a new paragraph (n) to read as follows:

THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE PROMPT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES, TO BE SPOKEN TO IN A WAY THE TAXPAYER CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND, TO RECEIVE CLEAR AND EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE REVENUE AUTHORITIES AND TO BE PROVIDED WITH A MECHANISM TO ADDRESS INADEQUATE SERVICE.;

28. Delete lines 22 to 26, and in lieu thereof, insert a new paragraph (o) to read as follows: THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT ANY INQUIRY, EXAMINATION OR ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE LAW AND BE NO MORE INTRUSIVE THAN NECESSARY, AND WILL RESPECT ALL DUE PROCESS RIGHTS.;
29. On line 27, insert a new paragraph (p), to read as follows:

(P) RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY – THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE, AS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012. THE TAXPAYER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO REVENUE AUTHORITIES SHALL NOT BE DISCLOSED AND SHALL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, UNLESS DISCLOSURE IS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW OR BY THE TAXPAYER.;

30. Reletter the succeeding subsections accordingly;

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31. On line 1, replace the word "on" with TO;
32. On the same line, replace the word "truthful" with TRUTHFULLY;
33. Still on line 1, replace the words "Disclosure of" with DISCLOSE;
34. On line 2, replace the word "correct" with ACCURATE;
35. On line 32, replace the words "Justice (DOJ)" with FINANCE (DOF);

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36. On line 2, after the word "offices," insert a comma (,) and the phrase CREATE DIVISIONS AND UNITS, INCLUDING REGIONAL OR PROVINCIAL OFFICES, AS MAY BE NECESSARY.;
37. On line 2, delete the phrase "shall have the power and authority to";
38. On line 3, after the word "Office," delete the phrase "and create divisions and units, including regional or provincial offices, as may be necessary".

As to the rationale of the amendment, Senator Gatchalian explained that the attachment of the Office of the National Taxpayer Advocate (ONTA) to the DOF was aligned with the US Framework where the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) was constituted as an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). But he clarified that ONTA's attachment to the DOF shall only be limited for purposes of administrative supervision in order to ensure the independence of ONTA and to preclude any conflict of interest or undue influence in the day-to-day operations of the two agencies.

39. On line 15, between the words "Represent" and "taxpayers," insert the words LOW INCOME.

Senator Gatchalian stated that the amendment, which was suggested by Senator Pimentel, would give flexibility to the implementing agencies—particularly the DOF and the BIR—to define “low income taxpayers” in the Implementing Rules and Regulations based on existing definitions or income threshold provided by various laws, rules, and regulations, considering that income thresholds and brackets change overtime.

Page 7

40. On line 17, before the word “qualifications,” insert the phrase ONTA SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO SET;
41. On line 18, delete the phrase “shall be in relation,” and insert the word PURSUANT;
42. On the same line, replace the letter “e” inside the parenthesis with letter G;
43. Still on line 18, after the word “Act,” insert a new sentence which reads: THE ONTA MAY COLLABORATE WITH QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS, TO ASSIST IN THE REPRESENTATION OF LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE A DISPUTE WITH REVENUE AUTHORITIES AND TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM TO LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS.;

Page 8

44. On lines 7 to 8, replace the entire title of Sec. 9 with QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE AND DEPUTY NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE;
45. On line 8, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
46. On line 10, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
47. On line 11, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;
48. On line 13, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
49. Still on line 13, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;
50. On line 14, delete the phrase “at least forty (40) years of age.”;
51. On line 19, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
52. On lines 20, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;
53. On lines 20 and 21, after the word “President,” change the colon (:) with a period (.) and delete the phrase “*Provided, That the appointment of*”;
54. On line 21, before the word “Deputy,” change to uppercase the first letter of the article “the,” after which, insert the phrase NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE MAY RECOMMEND THE;
55. On line 21, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;
56. On the same line 21, after the word “Advocates,” insert the word “WHO”;
57. On lines 21 and 22, replace the phrase “be upon the recommendation of the Chief Taxpayer Advocate” with LIKEWISE BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT;
58. On line 22, replace the period (.) with a colon (:) and insert the proviso *PROVIDED, THAT PREFERABLY AT LEAST TWO (2) OF THE DEPUTY NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATES ARE WOMEN.*”;
59. On line 22, before the word “shall,” replace the word “They” with the phrase THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE AND THE FOUR (4) DEPUTY NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATES;
60. On the same line, after the word “shall,” delete the word “both”;

By Senator Pimentel

Page 8

61. On line 23, after the words “term of,” replace the word and figure “seven (7)” with THREE (3).

By Senator Gatchalian

Page 8

62. Still on line 22, after the phrase “serve for a,” delete the word “fixed”;
63. On line 23, after the word “re-appointment,” insert a comma (,) and the phrase SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) RULES ON RETIREMENT AGE.;
64. On line 24, insert a new paragraph to read as follows: IN CASE OF VACANCY ARISING FROM RETIREMENT, RESIGNATION, REMOVAL, PERMANENT INCAPACITY, OR DEATH OF THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE OR DEPUTY NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE, THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT A SUCCESSOR TO SERVE THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE PREDECESSOR. THE NEW APPOINTEE, IF SERVING THE FIRST TERM OF THE PREDECESSOR, CAN BE RE-APPOINTED, SUBJECT TO THE RULES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.;
65. On line 24, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
66. On the same line, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;
67. On lines 25 and 26, replace the phrase “the Prosecutor-General and Senior Deputy State Prosecutor of the National Prosecution Service” with AN UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY;
68. On line 30, replace the word “Chief” with NATIONAL;
69. On line 30, between the words “Deputy” and “Taxpayer,” insert the word NATIONAL;

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70. On line 14, after the word “submit,” replace the words “a report” with the phrase HIS OR HER COMMENT;
71. On line 22, replace the word “Tariffication with TARIFF;

Page 10

72. On line 1, replace the phrase “in all formats” with the words WHETHER PRINTED;
73. On line 3, replace the word “language” with LANGUAGES;
74. On line 5, change the first letter of the word “curriculum” into upper case;
75. On line 17, replace the phrase “the DOJ, in consultation with the DOF” with THE DOF, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE;
76. On line 18, after the acronym “BOC” and the comma (,) insert the phrase BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (BLGF);
77. On the same line 18, after the acronym “CHED,” insert the word AND;
78. On lines 18 and 19, delete the phrase “and the private sector.”

CLEAN COPY

Senate President Zubiri directed the Secretariat to prepare a clean copy of the bill, incorporating therein the approved committee amendments.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1806

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

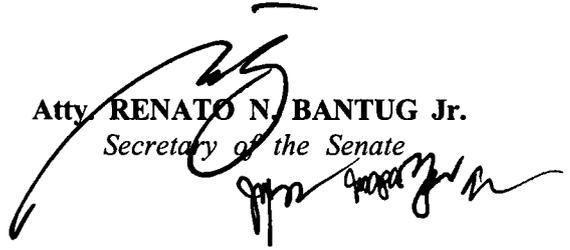
Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 6:49 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Approved on May 9, 2023

Atty. **RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.**
Secretary of the Senate

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renato N. Bantug Jr.', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'R'.