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Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 11
Tuesday, August 16, 2022

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Prepared by the
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE
Senate of the Philippines

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CALL TO ORDER

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With permission of the Body, the session was suspended.

It was 3:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

PRAYER

Sen. Joel Villanueva led the prayer, to wit:

Almighty God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, we come before You humbling ourselves knowing that without You, we can do nothing. But, if You are with us, no one and nothing, no circumstances here on earth can be against us.

Today, as we open our session, please be with us. Give us Your treasury of wisdom from heaven and let us be able to do our duties and responsibilities, not only for our people but for Your glory alone.

We ask this in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

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

With 20 senators physically present and four senators virtually present, or a total of 24 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

*Senator Cayetano (A) who was virtually present, also appeared at the session hall after the roll call.

**Senator Escudero attended the session online because of his exposure to COVID-19.

***Senators Marcos and Villar (C), who were recovering from COVID-19, also appeared online.

DEFERMENT OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 10 (August 15, 2022).

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 101, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S EXISTING POLICIES ON MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT FOR OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY'S OIL SUPPLY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 102, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN

INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PHILIPPINES' NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY POLICY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING A COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL GAS REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TOWARDS ENERGY SECURITY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 103, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9290, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FOOTWEAR, LEATHER GOODS AND TANNERY INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ACT," AND TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS THERETO WITH THE END-GOAL OF REVIVING THE FOOTWEAR, LEATHER GOODS AND TANNERY INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 104, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BALLOONING OF THE FISCAL DEFICIT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND TO ASCERTAIN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MAINTAINING A HIGH DEFICIT AND DEBT ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 105, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EXPLORING ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO BAKERIES WHICH HAVE BEEN BATTERED BY THE RISING COSTS OF WHEAT, FUEL, SUGAR, A HISTORICALLY WEAK PESO, AND REDUCED CONSUMER DEMAND

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2022

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 107, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PERSISTENT AND RECURRING POWER OUTAGES AND ROTATIONAL BLACKOUTS IN THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND ON THE RISING COST OF ELECTRICITY AMID THESE POWER INTERRUPTIONS

Introduced by Senator Tulfo

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 108, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE AWARDEES OF THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2022

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF EVANGELINE ROSE GIL EIGENMANN, VETERAN ACTRESS POPULARLY KNOWN AS "CHERIE GIL"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 110, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT TO THE 11TH ASEAN PARA GAMES HELD IN SURAKARTA, INDONESIA FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 6, 2022, FOR A TRIUMPHANT CAMPAIGN AND FOR DELIVERING THE COUNTRY'S BEST PERFORMANCE IN THE BIENNIAL REGIONAL GAMES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 111, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPPINE TEAM IN THE 11TH ASEAN PARA GAMES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 112, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION ON THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR THE 2022 ASEAN PARA GAMES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 11TH ASEAN PARA GAMES, HELD FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 6, 2022 IN SURAKARTA, INDONESIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No.113, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TAEKWANDO TEAM FOR WINNING THE OVERALL TITLE IN THE TAEKWANDO EVENT OF THE 2022 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES HELD LAST JULY 22-31, 2022 IN ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 114, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE TO SIGNIFY ITS COMMITMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE PROMULGATION OF A JUST TRANSITION FRAMEWORK IN ADDRESSING LABOR AND CLIMATE ISSUES AS ADOPTED BY VARIOUS INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 115, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE USE OF THE GEORISKPH PLATFORMS, AND ADOPT THE POST-DISASTER SHELTER RECOVERY POLICY FRAMEWORK AND THE READY TO REBUILD: DISASTER REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PLANNING GUIDE WORKBOOK AS TOOLS FOR DEVELOPING CLIMATE ACTION PLANS AND BUILDING A DISASTER RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 116, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY DISBURSE FUNDS FROM THE PHILIPPINES' 4th DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY



LOAN WITH THE WORLD BANK FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, LIVELIHOOD, AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE RECENT 7.0-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN LUZON, AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY CALL THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NDRRMC) FOR A SENATE BRIEFING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE THE NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED LOCALITIES AND THE TOTAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS TO ADDRESS THE CALAMITY

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 117, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR VICTORY IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ASEAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION (AFF) WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 118, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE PARA TEAMS FOR MAKING HISTORY BY GARNERING THE PHILIPPINES' BIGGEST MEDAL HAUL AND WINNING 5TH PLACE OVERALL IN THE 2022 ASEAN PARA GAMES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 119, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE YOUNG FILIPINO WEIGHTLIFTERS FOR WINNING THE 2022 ASIAN YOUTH AND JUNIOR WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN ON JULY 15 TO 25, 2022, AND RECORDING THE COUNTRY'S BEST FINISH YET IN THIS REGIONAL SPORTS EVENT

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 120, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON), TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED OVERPRICED AND OUTDATED LAPTOPS PROCURED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT-PROCUREMENT SERVICE (DBM-PS)

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Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 1 August 2022, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2022-2028 MEDIUMTERM FISCAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

To the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, entitled

A RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS TO CONVENE THE 19TH CONGRESS AS A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY AND TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIVE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS IN THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, SPECIFICALLY ON ARTICLE XII, XIV AND XVI THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Resolution of Both Houses No. 2, entitled

A RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS ESTABLISHING A SINGLE TICKET SYSTEM IN ELECTING THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, SPECIFICALLY ON SECTION 4, ARTICLE VII OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 121, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MISSED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING INDUSTRY IF A LONG TERM WORK-FROM-HOME POLICY IS NOT EMPLOYED

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANOMALOUS AND ERRONEOUS WAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) IS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7699, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PORTABILITY LAW

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 123, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE THREE CHINA-BACKED RAILWAY PROJECTS, NAMELY THE SUBIC-CLARK RAILWAY, PNR SOUTH LONG-HAUL, AND THE MINDANAO RAILWAY, INCLUDING THE REPORTED RENEGOTIATION OF THE LOANS WITH CHINA AS WELL AS THE STUDY OF OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Public Services; and Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 124, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF EXTENDING THE "LIBRENG SAKAY" PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 125, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TELECOMMUTING ACT," IN ORDER TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND WITH THE END GOAL OF PROMOTING WORK FROM HOME AND HYBRID WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 126, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF REGULATIONS BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

CONCERNING CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND OTHER DIGITAL CURRENCIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 128, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) ALLEGEDLY DUE TO QUESTIONABLE RELEASES OF FUNDS AND LACK OF CONTROL MECHANISMS

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 133, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROLIFERATION OF SPAM AND PHISHING TEXT MESSAGES IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 134, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROCUREMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THROUGH THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OF LAPTOPS FOR TEACHERS FOR USE IN DISTANCE LEARNING

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (AP)

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 136, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CARL JAMMES MARTIN FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION (WBA) ASIA SUPER BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 141, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON), TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED LACK OF DILIGENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT-PROCUREMENT SERVICE (DBM-PS) IN PROCURING P1.386 BILLION WORTH OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 142, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9295, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DOMESTIC SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004", AND TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS THERETO, IN ORDER TO FURTHER BOOST OUR DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 143, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON POSSIBLE POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF OUR GARMENTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, IN VIEW OF ITS POTENTIAL AS LOW-COST, LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES WHICH CAN PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 144, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING, AND RESETTLEMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATE OF PUBLIC FINANCING FOR THE HOUSING SECTOR AND THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING THE HOUSING BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ORDER TO CENTRALIZE THE FINANCING AND BANKING FUNCTIONS AND ADDRESS THE FINANCING NEEDS OF THE HOUSING SECTOR IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 145, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS, PURPOSES, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY AND STATE COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS PURSUANT TO THE TREATY

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 146, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM ON ITS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE 2022 ASIAN YOUTH AND JUNIOR WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST JULY 15-25, 2022 IN TASHKENT CITY, UZBEKISTAN

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 147, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON), TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED UNDUE PAYMENT GIVEN BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) TO THE JOINT VENTURE OF DERMALOG IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, HOLY FAMILY PRINTING CORP., MICROGENESIS AND VERZONTAL BUILDERS

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 148, entitled

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SENATE LEGISLATIVE INSITITUTE FOR THE CONTINUING EDUCATION, STUDIES, RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, ITS OFFICERS AND STAFF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committees on Accounts; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 149, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND MUSLIM AFFAIRS, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (JMA) BETWEEN THE CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC), NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP), AND THE TRIBONG

AYTA ENTERED INTO ON DECEMBER 6, 2007 CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE CLARK SUB-ZONE

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committee on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR POE

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Poe delivered the following speech on the future of hybrid work:

I rise to speak on a matter of personal and collective privilege in order to open a discussion on the future of work. Or more specifically, hybrid work. This is the emerging middle ground between working in an office and working remotely.

Tulad ng COVID-19, maraming variants ng hybrid work ang limitaw sa mga nakaraang taon. Some require a set number of days per week. Others provide a quota of days per year that an employee may spend working remotely.

There are differences, too, on the role of the office in a hybrid setup. Some companies still allocate cubicles to which employees must routinely report. Other offices are only used for collaboration and coordination.

But amidst these many variants, there is one common theme: flexibility. Within contractual limits, employees are given relative freedom to allocate their time and space on their own terms.

Hybrid work is not a radical, futuristic idea whose time is yet to come. It is an old friend knocking on our door once again.

Consider this: in 1969, Neil Armstrong made a small step on the moon, and in 1983, we made a giant leap towards the modern Internet. Almost exactly between those years, in 1976, the first book on remote work was published.

The rise of the Internet and the personal computer enabled the telework boom of the 1990s. While President Ramos was working on getting a dial tone to our countryside, nearly seven million Americans were already working from home. By 2001, it reached 19 million.

Technological advancements have made work even more mobile. It is now possible for an employee from Metro Manila to enjoy the shores of La Union while assisting their boss from the United States. That is what I call "offshoring."

Jokes aside, some experts believe that the Office of the Future is Virtual, Global, and Portable. They foresee a future of workers wearing head-mounted displays to interact with digital avatars in virtual reality board rooms.

These innovations have not led to liberation from the tyranny of the cubicle. *Bakit kaya ganoon?*

Una sa lahat, hindi naman lahat ng trabaho ay puwedeng gawin sa bahay. This reminds me of a joke I heard the other day. *Ang sabi ni misis, "Bakit mo inuwi ang trabaho mo dito sa bahay?" Ang sabi ni mister, "Rush kasi ito. Kailangan tapusin kaagad." Ang sabi ni misis, "Hay, naku, ikaw lang ang embalsamador na work from home."*

Again, tourism cannot thrive without actual tourists; farmers cannot harvest digital crops; and construction workers cannot live on SimCity alone.

Pangalawa, malawak pa rin ang ating digital divide. In 2018, the year before we enacted the Telecommuting Law, our fixed broadband speed was 17.32 Mbps behind Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand. Our mobile download

speed was second to the last in ASEAN. Because of these limitations, *hindi pa rin* plug and play *ang* work from home *sa ating ekonomiya*.

Pangatlo, malaki ang papel ng tiwala ng kompanya sa empleyado. In the hypercompetitive corporate scene in Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea, employees who leave the office early or bring home work are seen as inefficient. Employees from these countries immediately returned to the office when lockdowns were lifted. But bear in mind, those countries have an efficient transport system.

The tug-of-war between working in an office and working remotely is playing out right before our eyes. It can be seen in the impasse between the Fiscal Incentives Review Board and PEZA registered firms.

Let us untangle this mess. Section 309 of the CREATE Law states that projects or activities registered in an economy zone or freeport must be exclusively conducted or operated within their geographical boundaries. This includes businesses registered under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

However, these severe lockdowns made this provision unrealistic. As such, the implementing rules and regulations of the CREATE Law allowed the implementation of “temporary measures” to assist the recovery of these businesses. PEZA-registered information technology companies were thus allowed to implement work from home.

The FIRB recently issued Resolution No. 017-22 and under this resolution, all work from home must be terminated by September 2022. Further, the allowable ratio of employees working from home was reduced to 30%. Failure to follow these directives will result in adverse effects for their fiscal incentives.

For their part, the affected IT-BPOs have pointed out that working from home has not compromised their productivity, growth, or efficiency.

At this juncture, a video was played on the screen.

Some firms like Concentrix even decided to forego their incentives in order to keep their work from home arrangements.

The emerging consensus is that there is no best model when it comes to hybrid work. The best practice is to let businesses and their employees figure it out.

The French call this *laissez faire*. Sorry, *hindi ako nagpi-French* but in Filipino, “*Huwag sakalin.*”

As chairperson of the Committee on Public Services, I have seen firsthand how excessive meddling by bureaucrats can choke out innovation. The FIRB’s heavy-handed policies appear to be headed in the same direction. There is a clear example where government is the problem, not the solution.

Do we really want major international companies like Accenture, Amazon, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, JP Morgan Chase, and PayPal leave for our competitors in India or Vietnam? I do not think we should let this happen.

Napakalaking ginhawa ang hybrid work sa kalusugan at balsa ng ating mga komyuter. Iyong mga nabanggit kong kompanya ay nagbibigay ng mataas na suweldo or at least very competitive rates at nagbibigay ng trabaho.

In the past year, the average citizen of Mega Manila spent a total of 188 hours stuck in traffic. Probably longer when monsoon season turns our highways into floodways. He also spent P56,000 for commuting expenses. This excludes the cost of food to ease his aching gut and cellular data to extend his patience. *Wala pang inflation iyan.*

Ang kailangan ng mga komyuter natin ay CPR at hindi lamang RT-PCR.

In contrast, the work from home employee saved four hours daily. In the context of a five-day work week, that is a total of 20 hours or almost an entire day. *Isa pang pag-aaral nito lamang simula ng taon ang nagsabi na nakatipid ng halos P340,000 taon-taon ang bawat empleyadong Pilipino sa hybrid work set-up nitong pandemya.*

Finally, working from home paid dividends in terms of physical, emotional, and mental health: 74.2% reported improved physical fitness; 35.7% had a more relaxed work environment; and 27.8% had more time to spend on personal relationships.

Should we be surprised, therefore, that six out of 10 Filipino respondents want to retain some form of hybrid work?

Finally, a study published in the Philippine Review of Economics found that up to one-third of jobs in our nation's capital have telework potential. Nationally, the same study found that up to 22 million workers have jobs that are partially "teleworkable."

It is clear that hybrid work is here to stay. Adopting it is a no-brainer. It will improve our productivity and health, reduce our expenses, and make us more competitive.

To get the ball rolling, I have filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 125. It urges the appropriate Senate Committee to review the implementation of Republic Act No. 11165, otherwise known as the "Telecommuting Act," with the end goal of promoting work from home and hybrid work arrangements in the country.

Let us continue to close the digital divide by improving our Internet services, starting by passing the Better Internet Bill, the Open Access in Data Transmission Act, and other similar measures.

Finally, we should push back on agencies which refuse to "think outside the cubicle."

To conclude, let us work together to turn work into something that we do, not something we need to go to. We work to live, not live to work and die.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIA CAYETANO

Preliminary, Senator Cayetano (P) said that she was excited with the privilege speech delivered by Senator Poe since the future of work is one of the categories that she wanted to be prioritized in her Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking. She even shared that for almost three years, the Senate initiated a budget for the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), wherein they provide courses for public employees. She also informed the Body that four of her staff are about to conclude a DAP certificate course on Foresight and Futures Thinking and their thesis is about the future of work. Although she has not taken the course, she said that she regularly attended their online seminars and invited other members to attend it as well.

Senator Cayetano (P) continued that as author of the CREATE Law, she was following intently the news on the return-to-office order by PEZA, particularly for the employees of PEZA-registered companies. On the other hand, as chairperson of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; a lady senator; and advocate of women, mothers and wives, she saw and experienced the benefits of working from home. Saying that women are the unpaid workers of society, she recalled her tribute to the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who crafted the term "womenomics" and recognized the contribution of women in the economy.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed regret that the work of women such as taking care of the family, feeding the baby, breastfeeding, cooking for their husbands, and washing the clothes are still considered unpaid work because they do not form part of a country's GNP. However, she believed that the work from home set up gives women opportunities to earn, be included in the Social Security System, and contribute to the tax revenue, and more. She said that aside from women, men could also benefit from working from home by allowing them to do their roles as fathers or husbands while working.

While she is the author of the CREATE Law, Senator Cayetano (P) assured that she would be open in not only reviewing the implementation of the Telecommuting Law but also the specific provision in the CREATE Law related to the issue. Noting that the world is constantly changing, she wondered whether it is also high time to redefine work for it not to be constrained by the physical boundaries created under the existing laws. She said that when PEZA was created, the intention was to incentivize work in various areas regardless whether it is within a PEZA zone or not.

Reiterating her openness to revisit the law, Senator Cayetano (P) said that she would leave it to the Committee on Rules as to which committee will tackle the matter, suggesting that it could be tackled in any of the following

committees: Committee on Ways and Means, the committee in which the law was first discussed; Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; or Committee on Sustainable Development Goals Innovation and Futures Thinking, among others.

As to the costs being saved by employees from remote work, Senator Cayetano (P) asked whether it includes the costs of eating out in restaurants, and the costs of transportation. Senator Poe replied that the P520 she mentioned is only the transportation cost saved by a regular worker and does not include the cost of food yet. She said that she could provide Senator Cayetano (P) the source of her data which also showed that workers can save up to about P340,000 per year if they do not show up to work physically.

Senator Cayetano (P) agreed with Senator Poe, admitting that the country's transportation system is not that efficient; hence, workers find remote work more economical and convenient. She then shared that she also noticed the difference in her expenses when her daughter and the latter's three other teammates were still staying in their home to attend online school from when the four of them started going to school physically to attend their football practice.

She went on to say that whenever the girls who lived with her needed to go to U.P. to train, they would take the *Angkas* ride which would cost them P250. She stated that despite having part-time coaching jobs, it is difficult for them to afford the commute and that, unlike during lockdowns, they would only teach online and not spend money on transportation. She stated that as quarantine restrictions have eased up, her wards are able to go out more often, sometimes to eat.

She stated that while no one can refute the fact that working from home can save people money on transportation, the money saved is spent on food and other necessities, so the expense would shift to another purpose or type of business that benefits from it. She pointed out that when one business closes, another business opens, such as small eateries and deliveries which boost the economy.

She recalled then-NEDA Secretary Karl Chua telling the Body that the economy would gain P12 billion weekly from resuming in-person classes, benefiting the transportation and restaurant sectors, and that the closures would mean P11 trillion in future productivity losses. She stated, for example, that aside from teaching and non-teaching personnel, everyone in the school's vicinity is affected by the economic activity that occurs there during the day.

As regards digital nomads, she stated that most of them prefer to visit Chiang Mai, Thailand because the Internet speed is fast and the basic life support of a young person is present – places to eat, entertainment, friends, and places to stay. She defined digital nomads as people who travel and work from offshore, in the belief that work could be done anywhere.

Finally, she stated that she would look forward to revisiting the CREATE Law and possibly amending the provision mentioned in the speech.

Senator Poe expressed appreciation to Senator (P) Cayetano's inputs, as well as her passion for the environment and sustainability, as all of these would have an impact on the amount of time spent traveling. She also agreed that there would always be a trade-off, and that it has always been a balancing act between supporting businesses that require people to work physically and those who work remotely or from home.

Senator Cayetano (P) noted that the privilege speech of Senator Poe is interrelated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the areas of good health and well-being (SDG No. 3); more opportunities for women to work to achieve their personal goals (SDG No. 5); decent work and economic growth (SDG No. 8); reduction of inequalities (SDG No. 10); sustainable cities (SDG No. 11); and responsible consumption and partnership (SDG No. 17).

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda lauded Senator Poe for the very relevant, timely, and much-needed wake-up call that would allow the country to continue what it had begun since COVID-19 became a pandemic in 2020.



She recalled that a bill known as the “Better Normal in the Workplace, Public Spaces and Communities” was passed on Third Reading during her time in the House of Representatives. She stated that in the Nineteenth Congress, she refiled the bill as Senate Bill No. 1119, which seeks to institutionalize universal and mandatory health and environmental standards in public spaces and aims to protect the most vulnerable while ensuring economic well-being in all sectors or industries.

She expressed her desire to be allied with the ideas and policies of Senator Cayetano (P) as chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking. She believed that the future of work, whether it be flexi-place, compressed workweek, skeleton force, work shifting, flexi-time, or a combination of such schemes, was becoming a growing global movement, and that employees’ work hours would be reduced but not their compensation. She stated that studies show that flexible work policies foster a more adaptable work environment and a highly adaptive team, as well as encourage employees to work independently, which reduces the likelihood of burnout and infection with COVID-19. She emphasized that a flexible work environment should be implemented not only in selected government agencies but also in the private sector. She stated that a flexible work environment would reduce stress, increase job satisfaction, and even help employees maintain healthier habits, despite the fact that chronic stress, hypertension, and mental health have become some of the most common health issues during the pandemic.

On the statement of Senator Poe that some locators in PEZA had left due to more flexible work arrangements in other countries, Senator Legarda expressed concern about the number of jobs and income that the Philippines would lose if government requires employees to return to in-person work.

In response, Senator Poe proposed amending certain provisions of the CREATE Law, particularly since the companies are required to be located in a different geographical area, a move that would also affect the physical presence of their employees. She informed the Body that only 30 percent of their employees are currently permitted to work remotely.

She also disclosed that the executives of PayPal, a company based in a PEZA zone, would like to petition the government to reconsider the physical requirements in such zones. In contrast to the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, she stated that customer service, IT support, and other BPO work could be done remotely. She added that while PayPal would not immediately relocate its entire workforce, such countries as Vietnam and India are willing to offer incentives and would not require its employees to be physically present at work. Despite the offer, she emphasized that the country’s advantage is its workforce, which is patient, charming, and fluent in English. However, when it comes to taxes, she stated that the company receives better tax breaks elsewhere.

Relative thereto, she lamented that during the meeting of Senator Gatchalian, chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, with the Department of Finance (DOF) earlier that day, the latter could only suggest amending the PEZA Law, and that the locators could apply with the Board of Investments (BOI) because the BOI regulations are not location-specific and BOI-registered enterprises can avail of the incentives even if they are located outside the PEZA zones. She suggested that the matter be referred to the appropriate committee to determine what could be done in the interim.

Asked by Senator Legarda if it was possible for PEZA to reconsider, Senator Poe stated that the locators could go around the regulation by going through the BOI.

Senator Legarda believed that the future of work includes not only flexible work arrangements, but also automation and digitalization, both of which the Philippines appears to be struggling with. She stated that the growing digital divide would have an impact on future generations and their ability to participate in the country’s economic growth and prosperity. She assumed that people could work from home or from anywhere so long as it is effective and efficient. However, she stated that if the country’s internet connectivity and systems for technology innovation cannot keep up, it will be unable to replicate the good practices that abound among its ASEAN neighbors who have embraced new technologies ahead of it.

Senator Poe agreed with Senator Legarda that the passage of the amendments to the Public Services Act should be able to attract investments, particularly in telecommunications. She stated that SpaceX, a company owned by Elon Musk, was recently granted Permit No. 001, allowing them to place satellites that would send much-needed signals to unserved and underserved areas where cellular infrastructure could not be installed. Furthermore, she noticed that when President Duterte called out the telecommunications companies in his SONA, they stepped up their game and increased their internet speed. She believed that with SpaceX's entry, existing telecommunications companies have to work even harder because of the new competition. She believed that the country could attract investors by building infrastructure and promoting tourism, citing Bali, Indonesia's "Digital Nomad Visa," which allows nomads to stay longer than regular tourists.

Senator Legarda echoed Senator Angara's concerns that the Philippines is once again falling behind Indonesia. She then commended Senator Poe for raising the issue so that the Senate could take the lead in implementing a partial or hybrid setup without compromising efficiency and effectiveness, and that other government agencies and PEZA locators would follow suit.

In closing, Senator Legarda quoted Section 8(a)(2) of Senate Bill No. 1119, particularly on the role of the private sector and the submission of a Management Plan regarding the "overall strategy for the reporting of the workforce which may be on rotational, staggered, tele-commuting, remote or on work-from-home basis, including the relevant time specifications and periods as well as the number of workers who shall be allowed ingress and egress."

She recalled that while a House version of the bill had been passed on Third Reading in 2020, the counterpart measure in the Senate had not been enacted into law in the Eighteenth Congress. She then suggested that the Body review the recently filed Senate Bill No. 1119 or the proposed "Better Normal for the Workplace, Communities and Public Spaces Act of 2022."

Associating herself with the privilege speech of Senator Poe, she likewise hoped that the Better Normal bill would also be taken up by the Senate.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Preliminarily, Senator Villanueva stated the need for the State to be conscious of the future of work as it is already evident that a significant part of the workforce are employed in jobs that did not exist 20 years ago. He also surmised that the workers of tomorrow would be employed in jobs that have yet to be created and would be using machines and inventions that have yet to be invented. He believed that the Philippines should be prepared for the inevitable future of work which would come with its own challenges, including the potential displacement of workers due to automation.

Adverting to a report published by McKinsey Global Institute in 2019, he stated that 18.2 million jobs in the Philippines could be automated, with the largest automatable jobs found in agriculture-related sectors at six million jobs. He added that other jobs with automatable work include retail at 3.4 million jobs and manufacturing at 2.4 million jobs.

He also stressed the need to have additional working arrangements and for the government to be sensitive to the corresponding needs of the workers.

As examples of the growing prevalence of automation and robotics, he said that Saudi Arabia has granted full citizenship to its first humanoid robot named Sophia while Ella is Singapore's first fully-autonomous robot barista that can serve an *Americano* at the speed of 200 cups per hour. In addition, he said that South Korea is the first country to impose robot taxes on companies using machines that have replaced human workers. He added that Amazon has more than 520,000 Kiva Robots and other robotic drive units in its warehouses.

At this juncture, photos of Sophia, Ella, a robot that is subject to tax in South Korea, and Amazon's Kiva Robots were shown onscreen.

Reiterating the importance of preparedness in the future of work, he noted that complications have arisen as a consequence of the adverse effects of Republic Act No. 11534 or the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Law and Republic Act No. 11165 or the Telecommuting Act (Work From Home Law).

In order to address such issues, he said that he filed Senate Bill No. 135 or the Alternative Work Arrangements Bill which would allow entities registered with investment promotion agencies (IPAs), such as Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), to enter into voluntary work-from-home arrangements with their employees without losing their tax incentives.

On whether additional working arrangements are necessary to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and ensure employment growth in the country, Senator Poe believed that legislations should be proactive and leave room for flexibility in consideration of future advancements. She opined that the limitations in the future of work are not due to existing laws, which could always be amended, but because of the Philippines' limited exposure to the world trends. She said that it is incumbent upon legislators to study the work trends in other countries so that such factors could be considered when they craft laws. She said that it is important to make the provisions of proposed measures not only adaptable to the developing needs or future advances of the labor sector but also accommodating to the developments in different industries. She then expressed hope that the legal luminaries of the Senate could intervene by not limiting the possibilities of improvement because of the deficiency of the law.

To allow investors to enjoy certain incentives, Senator Villanueva said that the CREATE Law has a specific provision requiring registered activities of enterprises to be exclusively conducted within the economic zone. He said PEZA initially required a zero work-from-home (WFH) arrangement but eventually settled on a compromise agreement allowing 30 percent of the workforce in PEZA companies to work from home. He recalled how a fellow resident from Bulacan asked him to intervene with the directive requiring 100 percent of the workforce to return to their offices in the economic zones, noting that many employees would have to wake up early and travel long hours to work in Manila when they have experienced the benefits of working from home. When push comes to shove, he said that many employees would prefer to resign than to physically report for work.

On whether the PEZA could allow a 50 percent, 80 percent, or 100 percent work-from-home arrangement, Senator Poe replied that she would have to ask PEZA about it.

At this point, Senator Villanueva associated himself with the earlier statements of Senator Cayetano (P) that employees' expenses at the workplace is the same with working at home since they do not stop spending for their needs such as ordering for their food and other needs through delivery apps and services, such that the mobile and delivery apps services thrived during the pandemic.

As to sustainability and the preparedness of the country's industries to shift to a WFH arrangement, Senator Poe replied that it would undoubtedly benefit the country. She said that the arrangement had been forced upon workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic even though the Philippines was not ready for it. Nonetheless, she said that the country was able to manage and has improved greatly since then, and in fact observed that people are finding it hard to imagine life without the option of working from home. She noted how the Senate itself was able to manage with using a video conferencing application to conduct hybrid sessions and committee hearings and actually passed laws virtually, which was used to be done in person at the Plenary. She then opined that Filipinos are adaptable in ways that would not present a threat in the future.

Consequently, Senator Villanueva stated that a December 2021 study by the Institute on Labor Studies surveyed 276 companies across different industries that include industries belonging to Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM), transportation, logistics, manufacturing, retail, and others. He said that the study found that 66 percent or 181 out of 276 companies reiterated readiness to telecommute, 39 percent have an existing

telecommuting policy, and 23 percent stated that they allocated resources for their WFH and telecommuting employees.

Asked if there are other companies that have chosen to forego their incentives in PEZA enterprises because of the work-from-home issue, Senator Poe replied that PayPal was the only company she is aware of that has chosen to do so after seeing the advantage of allowing their employees to work from home. By September, however, she said that the 30 percent work-from-home arrangement would no longer be allowed by PEZA. While PayPal has not yet finalized its decision to leave the Philippines, she hoped that with the option of registering with the Board of Investments (BOI) for a more flexible enhanced deductions system, PayPal might find a way to still continue its enterprise in the country.

She opined that the shift of PEZA-registered BPOs to the BOI would be the path of least resistance for them to still avail of the investments without being forced to remain in the ecozone. Another option, she said, would be to review the Telecommuting Law in relation to Section 309 of the CREATE Law, and the PEZA Law. She then opined that the simplest solution would be for the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) to look into the studies she earlier mentioned and allow BPOs to practice hybrid work.

Senator Villanueva expressed concern that investors are not left any option but to register with the BOI. He said that while he also respects the position of the FIRB, he believes that there are more options to consider.

He then cited Section 8 on the Telecommuting Pilot Program of Republic Act No. 11165 or the Telecommuting Act which states that: "The DOLE shall establish and maintain a telecommuting pilot program in select industries which shall last for a period of not more than three (3) years" and that "at the end of the program, the DOLE shall submit a report to Congress on its findings." He said that the DOLE's baselining, scoping and profiling would help them determine which industries would actually fall under particular working arrangements.

Aside from Senate Bill No. 135 or the Alternative Work Arrangements in Enterprises Bill, he said that he had also filed other measures such as Senate Bill No. 134 or the Adoption of Alternative Working Arrangements Bill, and Senate Bill No. 136 or the proposed Freelancers Protection Act. He said that he and Senator Angara also authored Republic Act No. 11927 or the Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act.

As legislators, he said that the Body would be serving the best interest of the people, particularly in addressing the plight of the workforce and ensuring that solutions would be provided to the challenges posed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ESTRADA

In support of Senator Poe's privilege speech, Senator Estrada delivered the following manifestation:

I thank the good lady Sen. Grace Poe for tackling the issue of hybrid work in her privilege speech. As a staunch advocate of labor, employment and human resources, I associate myself with her privilege speech:

With our experience in our COVID pandemic response, where human intervention and human interaction activities were all restricted for safety and security concerns, the work-from-home setup has saved our industries and our nation, in the continuance of work processes.

I am in favor of adopting hybrid work setup for types of work that can be accomplished remotely and virtually. I believe that this will open doors for more and better employment opportunities, especially for our women, seniors and PWDs.

I also agree with all the advantages cited by Sen. Grace Poe and those mentioned by fellow advocates. We have to move with the demands of time and trend and we have to adopt accordingly.

For the record, I have filed Senate Bill No. 44, entitled "An Act Providing for a Working Time Flexibilization in the Private Sector" as among my priority legislations. This measure seeks to modify existing normal hours including



shortened meal breaks and overtime work. This will also compliment the provisions stated in Republic Act No. 11165 or Telecommuting Act which provides for work-from-home arrangement with the use of telecommunications and computer technologies. And so I am thankful that we have supporters of the hybrid work setup as one imminent future of work for the Philippine Labor Industry.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR REVILLA

Pursuant to the motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion into the *Journal and Record of the Senate* of the following manifestation of Senator Revilla:

Please allow me to associate myself with the good Senator from Pangasinan and Iloilo, and deliver a short manifestation on the matter.

Alam naman po natin ang mga pagbabago sa lipunan, bunsod na rin ng mga makabagong proseso at teknolohiya. As we adjust to the "New Normal" the times demand that we be able to adapt to these changes that will cater to the greater good of all Filipinos. Indeed, the future is here. At dapat lang tayong makipagsabayan sa agos ng buhay. We cannot be limited and boxed in the four corners of work cubicles. Lalo na at alam naman natin na hindi nasusukat ang kakayahan at kaledad ng trabaho sa pisikal na pagpasok lamang. Napatunayan natin nitong pandemya na kaya pa ring epektibong makapagtrabaho ang mga empleyado kahit na sa ilalim pa ng mga flexible work-from-home setups.

Before COVID-19, the largest disruptions to work involved new technologies and growing trade links. COVID-19 has, for the first time, elevated the importance of the physical dimension of work.

But looking at the upside of things, the pandemic only fast-tracked the inevitable. As the good senator has emphasized in her speech, the Future of Work is HYBRID.

As hybrid work has its disadvantages, there is evidence of its greater advantages. We can see a lot of industries and even countries adapting to a more hybrid work set-up. We must get on with the trends and the signs of the times, lest our people be left in the dust.

It is our duty to bridge and fill in the gaps of the demands of this new normal for our people not just to survive this new age but to be competitive in it.

Aside from adjusting to new demands of a digital society, we must also acknowledge the burdens that Filipinos endure in their travel to and from work. *Mga sira-sirang tren, ilang oras na ginugugol sa trapik sa lansangan, sa haba ng pila sa terminal. Ito ang mga naihsan nang ipinatupad ang flexible work setups. Patuloy silang nakapagtrabaho, habang iniwas sila sa mga problemang ito at sa banta na mahawa sa sakit.*

As the chairperson of the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, I assure the good senator and my colleagues of my full support on this matter.

We must be able to respond to the call of times especially when these changes would result in the easing of the burdens of Filipinos. Flexible, adaptive and responsive—these are the hallmarks of sound and reasonable policy. Let us come to the refuge of our dear countrymen by being the catalyst of much-needed change.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

At the outset, Senator Gatchalian stated that he wished to associate himself with the privilege speech of Senator Poe on the Future of Work and that he will not be interpellating her on the speech.

He said that the laws have not kept up with technology as well as trends but one thing that people learned during the pandemic is that working from home using Zoom is possible. He stated that many laws were passed and issues were addressed by working from home using the hybrid system of the Senate.

He said that during a hearing, he brought up the matter of remote work with the Department of Finance (DOF) because he saw from news reports that a lot of BPOs and offshore transcription companies are affected by the

return-to-work order. He said that the order stemmed from the laws that were made in the past which did not contemplate the work-from-home setup and some of the laws mentioned were the PEZA Law and the CREATE Law.

Senator Gatchalian proposed that the laws be revisited and to ensure that laws are future-proof and attuned to the trends of working from home and other modes of work. He said that he has also seen some trends, such as in his home city of Valenzuela where there are micro BPOs or micro customer setups. He said that this is a situation where there are 10 agents in a small room that is connected to a bigger BPO. He said that he was informed by the operator of the company that the employees are allowed to work from home because it saves the company office space, air conditioning, utilities, electricity and other bills, which is a win-win solution for both the agent and the company.

In closing, he commended Senator Poe for bringing the matter to the fore as a way to look at the laws that prevent the work-from-home or flexible work setup as he anticipated that the trend will still be visible in the next few months or even years as the world is adjusting to the post-pandemic setup.

For her part, Senator Poe thanked Senator Gatchalian for his support. She said that she wanted to highlight the latter's sentiments on the need for future-proof laws, which also meant that laws must be "future-adaptable."

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Preliminarily, Senator Hontiveros said that similar to Senator Gatchalian, she will not be interpellating Senator Poe but wished to make a manifestation relevant to her speech.

She recalled that she recently had a dialogue meeting with industry leaders from the IT-BPM sector, which is one of the stakeholders which will benefit from Senator Poe's advocacy on the future of work, particularly on the hybrid system and work-from-home arrangements.

She said that one of the issues which she discussed with the IT-BPM sector was the emerging gaps in the knowledge base of IT-BPM personnel. She said that it was a medium-term concern which may be focused on as the country moves forward to a firmer commitment to hybrid work and work-from-home arrangements.

Senator Hontiveros said that the second point which she found interesting in Senator Poe's privilege speech relevant to the industry was on their desire to have a dialogue with government agencies such as PEZA, the FIRB which was created under the CREATE Law, the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Board of Investments and the Department of Finance.

She expressed hope that the referral of Senator Poe's speech to the appropriate committee and the conduct of a public hearing to further discuss the future of work will bring to the attention of the aforementioned agencies the importance of the hybrid system and the work-from-home arrangements.

On a related matter, Senator Hontiveros said that with the mention of India in Senator Poe's speech, it would be interesting to look at the best practices in the region as well as in other parts of the world. She confirmed that India has a set of work-from-home policy benchmark that could be one of the references for Philippine legislation. She said that it may be beneficial to look at India's amendments to a 2006 law governing their special economic zones which could provide an exact policy template for Philippine laws.

She expressed her appreciation to Senator Poe as well as to the other work-from-home champions in the Chamber—Senators Gatchalian, Poe, Villanueva, and Estrada.

In closing, she hoped that the privilege speech of Senator Poe on the future of work will bring into the discussion the advocacy of the labor movement on the Good Jobs Agenda which seeks to discuss the labor movement's perspectives about the Fourth Industrial Revolution and how it would affect and ensure the protection of workers' rights and the

promotion of their welfare in the future of work framework, work-from-home arrangements and hybrid system of work.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

As author and sponsor of the Telecommuting Act in the Eighteenth Congress, Senator Villanueva stressed the importance of the Work-From-Home law. He said that the law was passed to protect and preserve the interest of the work force including the provision of overtime pay and other benefits which are also enjoyed by workers who physically report onsite.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Poe, and the interpellations and manifestations thereon to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:38 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Pursuant to the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 139 amending Section 20, Rule X of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Deputy Majority Leaders Ejercito and Villar as well as Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros were made regular members of all permanent committees.

Upon nomination by Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Migrant Workers

Chairperson	:	Tulfo
Vice Chairpersons	:	Estrada Go
<i>Members</i>	:	Dela Rosa Binay Tolentino Revilla Lapid Angara Padilla Cayetano (A) Cayetano (P)

Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Chairperson : Estrada

Vice Chairperson : Tulfo

Members : Binay
Revilla
Dela Rosa
Poe
Go
Villar (C)
Gatchalian
Padilla
Tolentino
Lapid

Committee on Basic Education

Chairperson : Gatchalian

Vice Chairperson : Escudero

Members : Angara
Binay
Cayetano (P)
Dela Rosa
Estrada
Go
Marcos
Padilla
Poe
Tolentino

Committee on Science and Technology

Chairperson : Cayetano (A)

Vice Chairperson : Cayetano (P)

Members : Go
Padilla

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 5:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS*(Continuation)****Committee on Culture and the Arts***

Chairperson : Legarda

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following bills which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 501, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT, FULL PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOCIETY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 502, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS AND HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE FOR MOTORCYCLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY FIRST-RESPONDERS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 503, 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 Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 504, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN, AND MANDATING RELIEF AND RECOVERY MEASURES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 505, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A PHILIPPINE SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE PROGRAM AND PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY PURSUANT THERETO

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 506, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS UNIFIED INITIATIVES TO DISTRESSED ENTERPRISES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY (GUIDE)

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 507, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A "NO PERMIT, NO EXAM" POLICY OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PROHIBITS STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION FROM TAKING THEIR MIDTERM OR FINAL EXAMINATION OR OTHER SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 508, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 509, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN LEGISLATIVE POLICYMAKING THROUGH THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 510, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ICCs/IPs) COMMUNITY CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS (ICCA), ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL ICCA REGISTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 511, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 512, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND INCENTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS (STPs) IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 513, entitled

AN ACT TO RECONSTRUCT AND REHABILITATE THE EXISTING 479-KILOMETER PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS LINE FROM SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION TO LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, PROVIDING FUNDS FROM THE ANNUAL VALUE-ADDED TAX COLLECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 514, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE BY PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND OFFICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 515, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION AMONG ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 516, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 517, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MARINE, MANGROVE, FORESHORE AREAS AND WATER RECHARGE AREAS OF THE BANTAYAN GROUP OF ISLANDS AS A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) AS AMENDED AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 518, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE IN THE PROVINCES OF BATANGAS, MARINDUQUE, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, ORIENTAL MINDORO, ROMBLON AND QUEZON, A PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED SEASCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE PROTECTED SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 519, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A PORTION OF THE PHILIPPINE RISE SITUATED WITHIN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA AS A PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF MARINE RESOURCE RESERVE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE PHILIPPINE RISE MARINE RESOURCE RESERVE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 520, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS, RAYS, AND CHIMAERAS AND ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Senate Bill No. 521, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE eHEALTH SYSTEM AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 522, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATORY SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY TO COMBAT COUNTERFEIT PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, DECLARING THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, SALE OR OFFER FOR SALE, OR POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEIT PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AS AN OFFENSE INVOLVING ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PROVIDING FOR THE PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS AND REVISING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8203 OR THE "SPECIAL LAW ON COUNTERFEIT DRUGS"

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 523, entitled

AN ACT TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE PEATLANDS AND ITS RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 524, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A "NO PERMIT, NO EXAM" POLICY OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PROHIBITS STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION FROM TAKING THEIR MIDTERM OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS, OR OTHER SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 525, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 526, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THEFT, ROBBERY AND DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 527, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS WITHIN THE COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291 ENTITLED "THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 528, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FOREST CADASTRE, PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCEDURES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 529, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE REFORESTATION AND TO INCREASE WOOD PRODUCTION THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TREE GROWING

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

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

Senate Bill No. 530, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Villar (C)

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 531, entitled

AN ACT ENCOURAGING YOUTH SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A 'TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA PROGRAM' AND A "TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA TRUST FUND," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Youth; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 532, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF ROOFTOP SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AMONG RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND GOVERNMENT END-USERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9513, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT OF 2008," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Energy; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 533, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 534, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MOBILITY OPTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, INCREASE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE CONGESTION AND CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS IN OUR SOCIETY

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 535, entitled

AN ACT ENABLING BANKS TO EXPAND SERVICE DELIVERY CHANNELS THROUGH CASH AGENTS AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 536, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AS A MEANS TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE "*POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM*," PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 537, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IN COMPUTER-RELATED OFFENSES AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012"

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Science and Technology

Senate Bill No. 538, entitled

AN ACT REVISING AND STRENGTHENING THE DEFINITION OF THE CRIME OF RAPE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 266-A, 266-B AND 266-D, AND REPEALING ARTICLE 266-C OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe



To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 539, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CABLE TELEVISION (CATV) AND DIRECT-TO-HOME TELEVISION (DTH) INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Public Services; Public Information and Mass Media; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 540, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUPPORT MECHANISMS ON MATTERS OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT FOR TEACHERS AND PERSONNEL IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 541, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING CLASS SIZE AND CONDITIONS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 542, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF GRAY WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS/FACILITIES IN BUILDINGS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 543 entitled

AN ACT REPEALING ARTICLE 247 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 544, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES BY CREATING A CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

90

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 545, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A RAINWATER HARVESTING FACILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, REGULATION, AND UTILIZATION OF RAINWATER RUNOFF, AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CATCHMENTS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADDRESSING FLOODING AND WATER SHORTAGE IN URBAN AND RURAL CENTERS

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 546, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PEOPLE'S PLAN AND MANDATING RELOCATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PROVIDE OTHER BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOOD COMPONENTS IN FAVOR OF THE RECIPIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992"

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 547, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM IN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AMONG PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES BY ENSURING THAT THEY DO NOT BECOME SOURCE OF MISINFORMATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6713 OR THE "CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES"

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

Senate Bill No. 548, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 549, entitled

AN ACT IMPROVING THE DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 550, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING DONATIONS AND REWARDS FOR OLYMPIC MEDALISTS AND THEIR COACHES FROM TAXES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10699

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Sports; Ways and Means; and Finance.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF EVANGELINE ROSE GIL EIGENMANN, VETERAN ACTRESS POPULARLY KNOWN AS CHERIE GIL.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Villanueva for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109, Senator Villanueva stated that it was an honor and privilege for him to sponsor the resolution filed by Senator Revilla to express the Body's profound sympathy on the death of veteran actress Evangeline Rose Gil Eigenmann.

As part of his sponsorship remarks, he read a portion of the resolution which states that "the Senate of the Philippines has, on numerous occasions, recognized and honored distinguished Filipinos for their valuable contribution and remarkable achievements in their respective fields, and for their positive influence in the development of our society." He expressed regret that seasoned and highly-acclaimed Filipino film and television actress Evangeline Rose Gil Eigenmann, more popularly known as Cherie Gil, passed away last August 7, 2022.

To give honor to the actress' contribution to the industry, he quoted a few more portions of the resolution, to wit: "For her unparalleled versatility and showmanship in numerous performances especially in her antagonist roles, Gil earned the distinct recognition of being the *La Primera Contravida* in the Philippine entertainment industry."

He continued by stating that "the craftsmanship she showed in her illustrious career contributed immensely to the development of the Philippine entertainment industry. Her professionalism, passion, and dedication, together with her generosity to colleagues and commitment to excellence, all serve as inspiration and guiding light for the younger generation of artists and creative workers."

In concluding his remarks, he stated that the passing away of the seasoned and multi-awarded actress is a great loss not only to her family but to the entire nation as well.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva requested the insertion of the cosponsorship speech of Senator Revilla on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109 into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the cosponsorship speech of Senator Revilla on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109, which was deemed read into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

We join not only the Philippine Entertainment Industry but the entire country in mourning the loss of one of our gems. Dubbed as "*La Primera Contravida*," Evangeline Rose Gil Eigenmann, more popularly known as "Cherie Gil," succumbed to death in the afternoon of August 7, 2022 at the age 59.

Malungkot na balita na lumisan na sa ating mundo ang isa sa mga batikang aktres na kilala sa galing at husay niya sa pag-arte. She has showcased her talent in both the small and big screens where she played various roles that truly made a mark in the history of Philippine Arts and Culture.

Bawat matalas na linyang binatawan, bawat sampal na dumampi sa pisngi ng mga karakter sa palabas man sa telebisyon o sa pelikula, bawat taas ng kilay... lahat ay nag-iwan ng marka na hindi kailanman malilimutan.

She will always be one of the greats whose unparalleled versatility and showmanship will always be the benchmark for Filipina movie and teleserye actresses. Very few in the field have made such a mark – imitated, emulated and admired across generations.

Her unforgettable lines in her iconic movies such as "*Oro, Plata, Mata*," "*Manila By Night*," and "*Bituing Walang Ningning*" will echo across space and time. *Itong hindi matatawarang mga pagganap ng natatangi at mahusay na aktres na si Cherie Gil ay magsisilbing pamana niya sa atin at sa mga susunod pa na mga henerasyon.*

Sa loob at labas ng bansa, ipinamalas niya ang galing ng Pilipino. Her star shined so bright that the world was able to witness her great artistry. She received highly-coveted international honors such as the Best Actress Award in the ASEAN International Film Awards and Best Lead Actress in a Foreign Language Film Award at the 2015 Madrid International Film Festival.

Hindi maitatangi ang laki ng ambag niya sa industriya. The craftsmanship she showed in her illustrious career contributed immensely to the development of the Philippine entertainment industry. Her professionalism, passion, and dedication, together with her generosity to colleagues, and commitment to excellence all serve as inspiration and guiding light for the younger generation of artists and creative workers.

Cherie, *sa iyong paglisan, baunin mo ang paghanga at pagmamahal hindi lamang ng iyong pamilya at mga mahal sa buhay, kung hindi ng buong bayan na minsan mong inalaw at pinasaya sa iyong walang katulad at kapantay na talento.* The skies will no longer be as bright because it lost one of its stars, but your talent and legacy will be with us forever – to celebrate, to cherish, to always remember.

Hanggang sa muli, Cherie. Paalam. Hindi ka namin malilimutan.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda asked to be made coauthor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109. She stated that while she was not personally acquainted with Cherie Gil, she admired the latter's career. She said that she had expressed her admiration for the actress when they had the opportunity to speak casually while the actress was still alive. She added that according to what she read from online news, the actress was also an environmentalist who may have visited many parts of the Philippines, including Mindanao. She then expressed her

heartfelt condolences to the Eigenmann and Gil families and expressed appreciation to Senator Villanueva for sponsoring the resolution.

COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the members of the Body were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 109 was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 113, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
TAEKWONDO TEAM FOR WINNING THE OVERALL TITLE IN THE TAEKWONDO EVENT
OF THE 2022 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES HELD ON JULY 22-31, 2022 IN
ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Villanueva for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 113 filed by Senator Lapid, Senator Villanueva stated that he would read some excerpts from the resolution congratulating and commending the Philippine National Police Taekwondo Team for being the overall winner in the 2022 World Police Taekwondo Event in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

He then quoted the following portions of the resolution:

The Philippine Senate has, on numerous occasions, recognized and given commendation to outstanding Filipino athletes for bringing pride and honor to the country by winning in international sports events.

The 170 personnel went to The Netherlands to compete in a number of sports competitions, including taekwondo, volleyball, badminton, basketball, cycling, and track and field, among others.

The 14-member PNP Taekwondo Team from the PNP Headquarters in Camp Crame bagged the overall title in the Taekwondo Competitions after winning 17 golds, 10 silvers, and nine bronze medals.

The exemplary performance of the PNP Taekwondo Team and the entire Philippine delegation deserves the highest praise, recognition, and commendation for bringing pride and inspiration to the Filipino people and for showing to the world the unrelenting spirit of Filipino sports excellence.

COAUTHORS

At this point, Senator Legarda manifested that she associates herself with the thoughts reflected in the resolution and the sponsorship remarks given by Senator Villanueva. Thereupon, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the members of the Body were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 113.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 113 was adopted by the Body.

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 6:07 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

ATTY. RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on August 23, 2022

