



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

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Journal

SESSION NO. 70

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 70
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:41 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Aquino III, B. S. C.	Honasan, G. B.
Arroyo, J. P.	Lacson, P. M.
Biazon, R. G.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Madrigal, M.A.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Roxas, M.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Villar, M.

With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Pangilinan and Zubiri, who were on official mission, arrived after the roll call.

Senators Angara and Gordon were on official mission.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session as he is under detention.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 69 and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

**MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Letter of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, dated April 25, 2008, resubmitting to the Senate for its concurrence the **Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea**, which was submitted to this august Chamber for its concurrence last 24 May 2007, but which was not scheduled for hearing in due time before the closing of the 13th Congress.

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2197, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF
MULCTING OR *KOTONG*, PROVID-
ING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs; and Civil Service and Govern-
ment Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 2198, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PANDEMIC
PREPAREDNESS PLAN AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES *AB*

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2199, entitled

AN ACT PREVENTING THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN CAUSING FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME IN MOTHERS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 2200, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2201, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, EXPRESSLY EXCLUDING JAI-ALAI GAMES FROM THE FRANCHISED ACTIVITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 2202, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Ways and Means; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2203, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 212 AND 214 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2204, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE APPROPRIATION, ENCROACHMENT, REGISTRATION AND TITLING OF CREEKS, ESTEROS, STREAMS, CANALS, RIVER BANKS AND OTHER PUBLIC WATERWAYS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 2205, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING RELIEFS FROM AN EXECUTION OF FINAL DECISIONS AND AWARDS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND THE LABOR ARBITERS, THEREBY AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE ARTICLES 223 AND 224 OF THE LABOR CODE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2206, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE PRACTICE OF COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY TO LICENSED AND QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS WITH RESIDENCY TRAINING IN DERMATOLOGY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 2207, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE REGIONAL COURT OF LABOR RELATIONS (RCLR) UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT, THEREBY ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION (NLRC)

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Labor Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2208, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CEBU STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF CEBU AND ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 2209, entitled

AN ACT PROPOSING THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO

AND RATTAN CENTER (PBRC) TO CONSERVE, PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE BAMBOO AND RATTAN SPECIES

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2210, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FACILITY FOR NON-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN PRIVATE COMPANIES EMPLOYING AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED WOMEN WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 2211, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING COASTAL PROVINCES, COASTAL CITIES AND FIRST CLASS COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES TO HAVE A MARINE RESERVE FOR AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FISHERIES OFFICER TO SUPERVISE THE SAME AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Local Government; Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2212, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY OF TENURE AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442 ^{AS}

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2214, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A DAILY ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE REMUNERATION OF LABORERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2215, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3046, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 371, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF FROM THE VICENTE SOTTO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER BY VIDEOTAPING A RECTAL PROCEDURE ON "DANILO" AND POSTING THE VIDEO ONLINE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 372, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RAMPANT DESTRUCTION OF PHILIPPINE CAVES

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 373, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING DEPLETION OF THE COUNTRY'S MANGROVE FORESTS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Agriculture and Food

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 374, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED HIGHER BUDGETARY GAP THIS YEAR WHICH WILL NECESSITATE MORE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BORROWINGS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Finance; and Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 375, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING INCIDENCE

OF WORKERS' DEATH DUE TO
JOB-RELATED CAUSES

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor
Santiago

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 376, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN
ATTAINING THE MILLENIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS SPECIFI-
CALLY ON REDUCING CHILD
MORTALITY, IMPROVING MATER-
NAL HEALTH, AND ERADICATING
HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER
DISEASES

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S.
Cayetano

**To the Committee on Health and
Demography**

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 45, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Tourism; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Ways and Means; Finance; Games, Amusement and Sports; and Public Works, on Senate Bill No. 2213, with Senators Gordon, Pangilinan, Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Loren Legarda, Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV, Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Enrile, Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL
POLICY FOR TOURISM AS AN
ENGINE OF INVESTMENT, EMPLOY-
MENT, GROWTH AND NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, REORGANIZING
THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES TO
EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY
IMPLEMENT THAT POLICY,

PROVIDING NECESSARY INCEN-
TIVES FOR INVESTMENT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 88, 267, 339, 367, 479, 481, 491 and 1381.

Sponsors: Gordon, Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV, Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Enrile, Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Pangilinan, Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada and Loren Legarda

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Biazon, there being no objection, the Chair also referred Senate Bill No. 2215 to the Committee on National Defense and Security.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 3:52 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the municipal officials and department heads of Limasawa, Southern Leyte headed by Mayor Melchor Petracorta, and Mayor Eleanor Dimaporo Lantur and ABC President Mama Mutlitba of Pantao Ragat, Lanao del Norte.

Senate President Villar welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1658 AND
HOUSE BILL NO. 2844**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1658, entitled *AK*

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR QUALITY AFFORDABLE MEDICINES,

and House Bill No. 2844, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CHEAPER MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8293 OR THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6675 OR THE GENERICS ACT AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5921 OR THE PHARMACY LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chair recognized Senator Roxas to sponsor the report.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Roxas, the session was suspended.

It was 3:55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:56 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR ROXAS

Preliminarily, Senator Roxas informed the Body that the Bicameral Conference Committee has successfully concluded its work and the report was signed by him as the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Commerce, Senator Enrile, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Senator Cayetano (P) Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Demography, on the part of the Senate, and the Chairman and the 11 members of the House panel, nine of whom signed with unqualified yes, two with reservations, and one negative vote.

Senator Roxas stated that he has already submitted to the Secretariat a copy of the joint explanatory statement on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1658 and House Bill No. 2844.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Roxas, the session was suspended.

It was 3:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

Senator Roxas said that the measure provides for increased competition to lower prices as well as ensure the quality of medicines for the Filipino people, and its salient features include the strengthening of the domestic generics industry, to wit:

1. The "no new use provision" disallows the evergreening of patents such that if there is no new element or ingredient introduced to a known substance, the 20-year protection expires as originally conceptualized; while another provision would help the local generics industry by allowing it to begin its preparation, experimentation and testing to have a ready competing product even before the patent expires.
2. A parallel importation program adopting the "International Exhaustion Regime," used by the majority of countries throughout the world, that recognizes patent expiry. If a medicine is sold at a more affordable price in another country, it could be imported into the Philippines to enhance domestic competition;
3. It strengthens the BFAD by allowing it to keep its income derived from fees so that it can process applications of new medicines and other products in a more timely fashion;
4. The nondiscriminatory clause mandates all drugstores to carry competing products so that they would not be intimidated by large multinational pharmaceutical companies into not carrying other competing products in their inventories;
5. The price monitoring and control mechanism provides for the setting of maximum prices for medicines as recommended by the Secretary of Health and approved by the President; it provides penalties if the maximum prices are not observed.

Senator Roxas expressed hope that the consolidated version of the bill would lead to the lowering of medicine prices. He said that while the bill may not be the be-all and end-all in providing affordable, quality medicines and health care, it certainly is an important step. *AS*

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Finally, Senator Roxas thanked Senators Enrile and Cayetano (P) for the hours they spent in negotiating with the House panel. He also thanked the Body for its steadfast and serious support for the concept and program of lowering medicine prices in the country.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR BIAZON

Upon query of Senator Biazon, Senator Roxas replied that unpatented herbal medicines are not directly covered because the bill actually refers to amendments to the Intellectual Property Code with respect to patents and patent protection, but they would be covered to the extent that the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) would be able to test them in a more timely fashion and using more updated information. He said that it was his understanding that the Committee on Health and Demography would look into the matter and propose amendments to the BFAD Law and the Generics Code, among other counterpart parallel measures aimed at ensuring affordable, quality medicines to the people.

Senator Biazon believed that the government should look into these medicines in order to ensure that they are safe to be used. In reaction, Senator Roxas informed the Body that all products, whether food, drugs or cosmetics, must go through the BFAD for registration and they are checked for their safety and efficacy.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

At the outset, Senator Pimentel lauded the Senate panel headed by Senator Roxas for the work they had done on the bill.

Asked if the manner of prescribing medicines was discussed by the conferees, Senator Roxas replied that the matter was discussed at length, and that, in fact, the conference was deadlocked because the House panel insisted on retaining a provision in its version that in prescribing a medicine, only its generic name shall be written and not the brand name which is the present practice. He bared that the Senate conferees disagreed to the provision as they were cognizant of the fact that there are weaknesses in the implementation of the Pharmacy Code and that a patient is not in a position to negotiate with the drugstore; moreover, they were apprehensive that if a doctor prescribed a generic-only medicine using a complicated chemical nomenclature, the patient would have to rely on the salesperson who is not trained

in medicine or its technical aspect. However, he said that the Senate conferees agreed in principle that when conditions shall be more conducive at some future time, the country could move towards a generics-only regime.

Asked whether the present practice of doctors of writing the generic name and the brand name would still be followed, Senator Roxas clarified that the conferees did not touch the present Generics Law, and so a doctor is still obliged to write the generic name and, at his option, the brand name.

Senator Pimentel believed that this is a more reasonable way of prescribing medicines as it also gives the patient the option of exercising his preference.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson noted that the law vests in the President the power to regulate medicine prices but he expressed concern that this would open the floodgate to other scams. Senator Roxas stated that the panels discussed this matter extensively but the view of the Senate conferees is that it pinpoints accountability.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR ESCUDERO

Preliminarily, Senator Escudero stated that Congress has passed several legislations guaranteeing that prices would go down, to cite some, the Oil Deregulation Law and the EPIRA.

Asked what provisions in the bill would guarantee that medicine prices would indeed go down in addition to ensuring free and fair competition for generic medicines, Senator Roxas stated that there would be competition arising from the generics industry; there would be competition in the branded medicines through parallel importation – for instance, branded Norvasc which is being sold at a cheaper price in another country could be imported into the Philippines to create additional competitive pressure; and there would be a price regulatory mechanism which mandates the Secretary of Health to undertake a comparable study of the most prescribed medicine for the most diagnosed illnesses and recommend its maximum prices, and it would be up to the President to affirm or reject the same.

Senator Escudero noted that under the oil deregulation law, the President only has persuasive powers over the big oil players not to raise oil prices

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but under the Cheaper Medicines Bill, the President has the power to impose price ceilings. Senator Roxas affirmed the observation as he explained that the power of the President to impose price ceilings on medicines is not a new feature in law. In fact, he pointed out that under the Price Act, the President can exercise such power under certain conditions that are related to calamities and to exigencies. The Cheaper Medicines Bill, he stressed, clearly states that the price ceilings are set after due process and upon recommendation of the Secretary of Health.

On another matter, Senator Escudero noted that under the consolidated bill, the BFAD would have the right to use the money that it generates but there would be no additional funding for its upgrade. Senator Roxas clarified that BFAD would not be given additional funds under the law inasmuch as the Committee on Health and Demography would propose an amendment to the BFAD Law, thus, any additional money needed to strengthen the BFAD, be it for its personnel or equipment, can be taken up under said bill.

Asked how much the BFAD would earn once it is given the right to use its own funds, Senator Roxas opined that it would be almost double the budget allocated by the national government to the bureau.

Finally, Senator Escudero stated that medicine security pertains to three things – affordability, availability and reliability. He believed that the job is not complete until government shall have fulfilled these requirements.

APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions on Senate Bill No. 1658 and House Bill No. 2844 was approved by the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 4:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ENRILE

In view of the request of the interpellators on Senate Bill No. 2121 (amending the EPIRA) for some time to study the more complicated issues of the measure, Senator Enrile asked when the interpellators would be ready so that he could advise the resource people to be present. He pointed out that he sponsored the measure on March 12, and two months to study a simple bill is a long time.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Cayetano (A) stated that Senator Legarda would be ready to interpellate on Tuesday. He said that he would ask his staff to call the other senators for their schedule so that Senator Enrile could be informed in advance.

Senator Enrile underscored the need to amend the EPIRA to lower the cost of power in the country. He said he would be ready for the interpellation on Tuesday.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

In view of the signing of Executive Order No. 690 on December 28, 2007, which transferred the Land Registration Authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Senator Escudero requested that the bills pertaining to the LRA, which were originally referred to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, be referred instead to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Upon motion of Senator Escudero, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senate Bill Nos. 167, 276, 553, 732, 1348, 1454 and 2164 to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 4:32 p.m.

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RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:38 p.m., the session was resumed.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 41
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2116**
(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 2116 (Committee Report No. 41), entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PROVISIONS OF R. A. 7323, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that the parliamentary status was the period of individual amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Ejercito Estrada, Sponsor of the measure, and Senator Legarda for her amendment.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD
OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

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

LEGARDA AMENDMENT

On page 2, between lines 17 and 18, as proposed by Senator Legarda and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the following paragraph:

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO), MUST INFORM THEIR EMPLOYEES OF THE RIGHTS, BENEFITS, AND PRIVILEGES UNDER EXISTING LAWS AND COMPANY POLICIES AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD
OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS**

There being no other individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2116
ON SECOND READING**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 2116 was approved on Second Reading.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 2116**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence of Mayor Librado Santos of General Natividad, Nueva Ecija and Mr. Max Cena.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 4:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION


At 4:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 4:45 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on April 30, 2008