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Bill putting end to 'endo' approved

The House of Representatives approved on Monday the measure seeking an end to labor-only contracting.

Voting 199-7, lawmakers approved on third and final reading House Bill 6908, a measure seeking to strengthen the security of tenure of employees in the private sector to address perennial problems of labor-only contracting, known as "endo" or end of contract.

"This will help strengthen the security of tenure of private sector employees to end labor-only contracting and end of contract," said one of the authors, House Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu.

The seven lawmakers who opposed the measure comprise the militant Makabayan bloc from party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, women's group Gabriela, Kabataan and Alliance for Concerned Teachers.

Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas complained the bill would in effect amend Presidential Decree 442, otherwise known as the "Labor Code of the Philippines," thereby still allowing contractualization for recognizing the job contractor and/or middleman system.

HB 6908 was approved on second reading last week that will also amend PD 442.

It seeks to amend Article 106 of PD 44 titled "contractor" so that whenever an employer enters into a contract with a person for the performance of work, the employees will be paid in accordance with the Labor Code and other related laws.

The "contracting out" of the same work rolled out by the employer is now prohibited.

The secretary of Labor, upon consultation with the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council, will now restrict or prohibit the contracting out of labor to protect the rights of workers established under the Labor Code.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) may also make appropriate distinctions between labor-only contracting which is now prohibited, and legitimate job contracting, which is permitted in accordance with the Labor Code.

– **Delon Porcalla**

* CONTRACTUALIZATION
* HOUSE BILL (6908)