



# ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES

## PRIORITY BILLS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR (16<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS)\*

### A. REPUBLIC ACTS/ BILLS

- I. Enacted into Law
  1. ***Insurance Code Amendments*** (RA 10607) – signed Aug 15, 2013
  2. Food Safety (RA 10611) – signed Aug 23, 2013
  3. Fast-Tracked S&T Scholarship Act of 2013 (RA 10612) – signed Aug 23, 2013
  4. Rural Farm Schools Act (RA 10618) – Sep 3, 2013
  5. ***Foreign Banks Liberalization Act amendments*** (RA 10641) – July 18, 2014
  6. Lemon Law (RA 10642) – July 18, 2014
  7. **MSME Development** (RA 10644) – July 18, 2014
  8. Scholarship for top ten public high school students of graduating class (RA 10648)

-----  
Legend: **Bold** - Arangkada recommendation (JFC/PBGs)

***Bold and italics*** – other Arangkada recommendation

Gray Highlight - LEDAC priority measures

\*Updated as of December 17, 2014. This list of legislation is a consolidation of important bills of interest to the business community, most of which are currently being considered in the 16th Congress. The compilation of this list in no way implies that all foreign chambers and business groups have approved every measure or even studied all of them.

[www.arangkadaphilippines.com](http://www.arangkadaphilippines.com)



II. For enrollment to Office of the President

1. ***Sandiganbayan Act Amendments***

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

III. Approved on Third Reading

1. **CARP Extension (RSR)**

House: Pending Second Reading (Certified Urgent)

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

2. **Competition bill**

House: Pending Second Reading

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

3. ***Freedom of Information***

House: Approved by Public Information Committee

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

4. Granting 30-day Judicial Leave for Judges (RSR)

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Pending Second Reading

5. ***Mining-free Zone bills - Catanduanes, Cagayan de Oro, Eastern Samar, Nueva Vizcaya, Sorsogon, Biliran, Davao, Nueva Ecija (RSR)***

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

6. ***National Land Use Policy***

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Under Environment Committee TWG deliberation

7. Non-working Holiday after Election (RSR)

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Under Electoral Reforms Committee Deliberation

8. **Forestry Profession Act amendments**

House: Approved by Civil Service Committee

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

9. ***Real Property Valuation***

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee

IV. Pending Second Reading in at least one Chamber

1. Amendment to the Economic Provisions of the Constitution  
House: Pending Second Reading (Interpellations)  
Senate: Pending in Constitutional Amendments Committee

2. Apprenticeship Program Reform  
House: Approved by Labor Committee  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

3. **Cabotage Law amendments**

House: Pending in Transportation Committee  
Senate: Under Trade Committee TWG deliberation

4. *National Farmers and Fisherfolk day (May 15) as a non-working holiday (RSR)*  
House: Pending Second Reading  
Senate: Pending in Education Committee

5. **Pharmacy Profession Act amendments**  
House: Pending in Civil Service Committee  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

6. **Trade Representative Office**  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation

V. Under Committee/TWG Deliberation

1. **Bangsamoro Basic Law**  
House: Under Ad Hoc Committee on Bangsamoro Basic Law deliberation  
Senate: Under Local Government Committee deliberation

2. **BOT Law Amendments**  
House: Under Public Works Committee deliberation  
Senate: Under Public Works Committee deliberation

3. **BSP Charter Amendments**  
House: Under Banks TWG Committee deliberation  
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee

4. **Clean Air Act Amendments**  
House: Under Ecology Committee TWG deliberation  
Senate: No bill filed

**5. Customs Modernization and Tariffs Act**

House: Approved by Ways and Means Committee

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

**6. Fiscal Incentives Rationalization**

House: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

**7. Foreign Investment Act amendments**

House: Pending in Trade Committee

Senate: Under Trade Committee TWG deliberation

**8. Immigration Act**

House: Under Justice Committee deliberation

Senate: Under Justice Committee deliberation

**9. Iglesia ni Cristo Anniversary (July 27) as a non-working holiday (RSR)**

House: Under Revision of Laws TWG deliberation

Senate: Considered in HJR 12

**10. Land Administration and Reform Act**

House: Under Government Reorganization TWG deliberation

Senate: Pending in Environment and Natural Resources Committee

**11. LPG Industry Regulation and Safety Act**

House: Approved by Energy Committee

Senate: Pending in Energy Committee

**12. Lowering of Corporate Income Tax**

House: Approved by Ways and Means Committee

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

**13. Lowering of Individual Income Tax**

House: Approved by Ways and Means Committee

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

**14. National Transportation Safety Board**

House: Approved by Government Reorganization and Transportation Committee

Senate: Under Public Services Transportation Sub-committee deliberation

**15. Ombudsman Charter Amendments**

House: Approved by Justice Committee

Senate: Under Justice Committee deliberation

16. ***Plastic Bag Regulation Act***

House: Under Ecology Committee deliberation

Senate: Pending in Trade and Commerce Committee

17. ***Radio and X-ray Technology Profession Act amendments***

House: Pending in Civil Service Committee

Senate: Under Civil Service Committee TWG deliberation

18. ***Right of Way Act Amendments***

House: Approved by Public Works Committee

Senate: Under Public Works Committee deliberation

19. ***Sustainable Forest Management***

House: Under Natural Resources TWG deliberation

Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

20. ***Whistle Blowers Protection Act***

House: Approved by Justice Committee

Senate: Under Justice Committee deliberation

21. ***Witness Protection and Benefits Act***

House: Approved by Justice Committee

Senate: Pending in Justice Committee

**B. EXECUTIVE ORDERS/ PROCLAMATIONS/ ISSUANCES**

I. Positive

1. BSP Circular 809, Series of 2013 – Amendments to Relevant Provisions of the Manual of Regulations for Banks Implementing RA 10574 (Rural Bank Act amendments) – signed August 23, 2013
2. A.M. 12-12-11 SC - Financial Rehabilitation Rules of Procedure – signed August 27, 2013
3. Revenue Regulations 15-2013 – Revenue Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 10378 entitled “An Act Recognizing the Principle of Reciprocity as Basis for the Grant of Income Tax Exemptions to International Carriers and Rationalizing other Taxes Imposed thereon by Amending Sections 28(A)(3)(A), 109, 118 And 236 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended, and for other Purposes - issued September 20, 2013.
4. A.M. 12-12-11 SC - Financial Rehabilitation Rules of Procedure – signed August 27, 2013
5. Memorandum Order No. 59 – Approving the 2013 Investments Priorities Plan – signed November 13, 2013

## II. Requiring Substantial Reconsideration (RSR)

1. Declaring the Regular Holidays, Special (Non-working) days, and special holidays (for all schools) for the year 2014 (Proclamation 655) – signed September 25, 2013; declares Chinese New Year as a non-working holiday
2. Declaring July 27, 2014 (Iglesia ni Cristo Centennial Anniversary) as a Non-working Holiday (Proclamation 815) – signed July 2, 2014
3. Declaring Regular Holidays, Special (Non-Working) Days and Special Holiday (for all schools) (Proclamation 831) – signed July 17, 2014

### **B. LAWS WHICH REMAIN UNIMPLEMENTED**

1. Personal Equity Retirement Account (RA 9505) – signed June 23, 2011
2. Credit Information System (RA 9510) – signed July 23, 2007
3. Real Estate Investment Trust Act (RA 9856) – signed December 17, 2009