



# ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES

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

### A. REPUBLIC ACTS/ BILLS

- I. Enacted into Law
  1. ***Foreign Banks Liberalization Act amendments*** (RA 10641) – July 18, 2014
  2. Lemon Law (RA 10642) – July 18, 2014
  3. **MSME Development** (RA 10644) – July 18, 2014
  4. Ladderized Education Act (RA 10647) – Nov 21, 2014
  5. Scholarship for top ten public high school students of graduating class (RA 10648) – Nov 27, 2014
  6. Open Distance Learning Act (RA 10650) – Dec 9, 2014
  7. Strengthening the Sandiganbayan (RA 10660) – Apr 16, 2015

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

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

Gray Highlight - LEDAC priority measures

\*Updated as of Sep 30, 2015. 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.

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8. Open High School System (RA 10665) – July 9, 2015
9. Philippine Competition Act (RA 10667) – July 21, 2015
10. Liberalizing Cabotage (RA 10668) – July 21, 2015

II. For Bicam/Signature of the President

1. **Forestry Profession Act amendments**

2. ***Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UNIFAST) Act***
3. Tax Incentives Management and Transparency Act (RSR)
4. Prohibiting the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

III. Approved on Second/Third Reading in at least one Chamber

1. Amendment to the Economic Provisions of the Constitution  
House: Approved on Second Reading  
Senate: Pending in Constitutional Amendments Committee
2. Apprenticeship Program Reform  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending Second Reading
3. BSP Charter amendments  
House: Approved on Second Reading  
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee
4. **CARP Extension (RSR)**  
House: Pending Second Reading (Certified Urgent)  
Senate: Approved on Third Reading
5. **Criminology Profession Act amendments**  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Committee Report for filing
6. **Customs Modernization and Tariffs Act**  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

7. **DICT Creation**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Approved on Third Reading

8. Free Wi-fi in Public Places

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

9. **Freedom of Information**

House: Pending Second Reading  
Senate: Approved on Third Reading

10. Labor Code amendment on Employment of Foreign Nationals

House: Approved on Second Reading  
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee

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

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

12. **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 Second Reading

13. **National Land Use Policy**

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

14. Non-working Holiday after Election (RSR)

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Under Electoral Reforms Committee Deliberation

15. **Pharmacy Profession Act amendments**

House: Pending Second Reading  
Senate: Approved on Third Reading

16. **Real Property Valuation**

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

17. **Right-of-Way Act Amendments**

House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Under Public Works TWG deliberation

18. **Trade Representative Office**  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

19. National Feeding Program  
House: Approved on Third Reading  
Senate: Pending in Education Committee

IV. Pending Second Reading in at least one Chamber

1. **Bangsamoro Basic Law**  
House: Pending Second Reading (Interpellations)  
Senate: Pending Second Reading
2. Corporation Code amendments  
House: Pending in Trade Committee  
Senate: Pending Second Reading

V. Under Committee/TWG Deliberation

1. **BOT Law Amendments**  
House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Public Works Committee TWG deliberation
2. **Clean Air Act Amendments**  
House: Under Ecology Committee deliberation  
Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

3. **Excise Tax on Sugar Sweetened Beverages (RSR)**  
House: Under Ways and Means Committee TWG deliberation  
Senate: No bill filed

4. **Fiscal Incentives Rationalization**  
House: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation  
Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

5. **Foreign Investment Act amendments**  
House: Pending in Trade Committee  
Senate: Under Economic Affairs TWG deliberation

6. **FINL Liberalization Act**  
House: Pending in Trade Committee  
Senate: Under Economic Affairs TWG deliberation

## **7. Immigration Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

## **8. Land Administration and Reform Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Pending in Environment and Natural Resources Committee

## **9. Lowering of Corporate/Individual Income Tax**

House: Under Ways and Means TWG deliberation  
Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

## **10. Mining Fiscal Regime and Revenue Sharing Arrangement (RSR)**

House: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation  
Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee

## **11. National Transportation Safety Board**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Public Services Transportation Sub-committee deliberation

## **12. Ombudsman Charter Amendments**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

## **13. Plastic Bag Regulation Act**

House: Approved by Ecology Committee  
Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

## **14. Sustainable Forest Management**

House: Under Natural Resources TWG deliberation  
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

## **15. Whistle Blowers Protection Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

## **16. Witness Protection and Benefits Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee  
Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

## **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
6. DOJ Department Circular 5 – Guidelines in the Enforcement of Competition Laws – published April 30, 2015
7. 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Foreign Investment Negative List (EO 184) – signed May 29, 2015

### 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
4. Declaring February 25 as special non-working holiday in celebration of 30<sup>th</sup> EDSA Anniversary (Proclamation 1071) – signed July 8, 2015
5. Declaring November 18, 19 of 2015 as special non-working days due to APEC meetings (Proclamation 1072) – signed July 8, 2015
6. Declaring the Regular Holidays and Special (Non-Working) Days for the year 2016 (Proclamation 1105) – signed August 20, 2015

## **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
4. Data Privacy Act (RA 10173) – signed Aug 15, 2012