



**AMCHAM PHILIPPINES**  
The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

**THE ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES PROJECT  
NOTEWORTHY DOCUMENT #**

October 1, 2015

**To:** John Avila, AOR, USAID-OEDG  
**From:** John Forbes, Senior Adviser, TAPP  
**Subject:** TAPP Legislative Tracker for September 2015

On October 1, the AmCham Legislative Tracker and List of Legislative Priorities for the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress were presented at the monthly Legislative Committee meeting. Both have been updated to reflect the status of priority bills of the business sector identified in the July 19, 2013 JFC-PBG letter to President Aquino on priority legislation.

The Legislative Tracker shows that either hearings or TWG meetings were conducted in August on the following bills that affect the investment climate:

- Bank Secrecy Law amendments
- CAAP Act amendments
- Clean Air Act amendments
- Consumer Act amendments
- Energy Efficiency bills (TWG)
- Income Tax Reform
- Mining Fiscal Regime
- Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives
- Plastic Bag Regulation
- VAT-exemption on Electricity

The House approved the Customs Modernization and Tariffs Act on second reading while the Senate Ways and Means Committee reported out the counterpart bill. The *Arangkada* recommendation to make the de minimis value competitive is reflected in both Senate and House versions. In the Senate bill, the de minimis value is set at 10,000 while in the House Bill, 5,000. Both versions also do not contain a provision authorizing the BOC Commissioner to charge overtime fees to shippers. However, the House version contains a provision on pre-shipment inspection, introduced by Rep. Lito Atienza in plenary. The Senate Bill does not contain this provision.

The House also approved the BSP Charter amendments on second reading. The House Banks Committee reported out HB 6182, amending the AMLA to designate casino operators, with respect to their gaming operations, as covered persons under the law mandated to report all covered transactions to the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

Attachments: September 2015 Legislative Tracker, updated as of 9/30/15;  
Status of Priority Bills of Business Sector, updated as of 9/30/15