



ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES

A Project of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

PRIORITY BILLS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR (16th 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

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

Bold and italics – other Arangkada recommendation

Gray Highlight - LEDAC priority measures

*Updated as of June 30, 2016. 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
11. Youth Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy Act (RA 10679) – Aug 27, 2015
12. **Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UNIFAST) Act** (RA 10687) – Oct. 15, 2015
13. **Forestry Profession Act amendments (RA 10690)** – Oct 23, 2015
14. Public Employment Service Office Act amendments (RA 10691) – Oct 26, 2015
15. Microfinance NGOs Act (RA 10693) – Nov 3, 2015
16. Prohibiting the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (RA 10697) – Nov 13, 2015
17. Tax Incentives Management and Transparency Act (RA 10708) – Dec 8, 2015
18. Credit Surety Fund Cooperative Act (RA 10744) – Feb 6, 2016
19. **Right-of-Way Act amendments** (RA 10752) – Mar 9, 2016
20. Philippine Green Jobs Act (RA 10771) – Apr 29, 2016





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21. **Creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology** (RA 10844) – May 23, 2016
 22. Anti Large-Scale Agricultural Smuggling (RA 10845) - May 23, 2016
 23. Extending the life of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RA 10848) – May 23, 2016
 24. **Customs Modernization and Tariffs Act** (RA 10863) - May 30, 2016
 25. National Bureau of Investigation Modernization (RA 10867) – June 23, 2016
 26. Jobstart Philippines Act (RA 10869) – June 29, 2016
- II. Enrolled for signature of the President
1. Agricultural Land Reform Code amendments
 2. **Foreign Investment Liberalization Act**
 3. **Pharmacy Profession Act amendments**
 4. Philippine Credit Card Industry Regulation Law
 5. Special Program for Employment of Students





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III. Bicameral Conference

1. New Salary Standardization Law
2. Philippine Trade Representative Office

IV. 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. Amendment of the Revised Penal Code (Indexation of Criminal Penalties)
House: Approved on Third Reading
Senate: Pending in Justice Committee
3. **Apprenticeship Program Reform**
House: Approved on Third Reading
Senate: Pending Second Reading
4. BSP Charter amendments
House: Approved on Third Reading
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee
5. **CARP Extension (RSR)**
House: Pending Second Reading (Certified Urgent)





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Senate: Approved on Third Reading

6. **Criminology Profession Act amendments**

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Pending Second Reading

7. **Freedom of Information**

House: Pending Second Reading

Senate: Approved on Third Reading

8. **Labor Code amendment on Employment of Foreign Nationals**

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Pending in Labor Committee

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

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Approved Second Reading

10. **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

11. **National Land Use Policy**

House: Approved on Third Reading

Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

12. Non-working Holiday after Election (RSR)





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

13. **Real Property Valuation**

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

14. National Feeding Program

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

15. **Public-Private Partnership bill (certified as urgent)**

House: Approved Second Reading
Senate: Pending Second Reading

V. Pending Second Reading in at least one Chamber

1. Anti-Money Laundering Act amendments

House: Pending Second Reading
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee

2. **Bangsamoro Basic Law**

House: Pending Second Reading (Interpellations)
Senate: Pending Second Reading (Interpellations)

3. Corporation Code amendments

House: Under Trade Committee deliberation





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Senate: Pending Second Reading

VI. Under Committee/TWG Deliberation

1. **Clean Air Act Amendments**

House: Under Ecology Committee deliberation

Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

2. **Excise Tax on Sugar Sweetened Beverages (RSR)**

House: Approved by Ways and Means Committee

Senate: No bill filed

3. **Fiscal Incentives Rationalization**

House: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

4. **Foreign Investment Act amendments**

House: Pending in Trade Committee

Senate: Under Economic Affairs TWG deliberation

5. **Immigration Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee

Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

6. **Land Administration and Reform Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee

Senate: Pending in Environment and Natural Resources Committee





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7. **Lowering of Corporate/Individual Income Tax**

House: Under Ways and Means TWG deliberation

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

8. Mining Fiscal Regime and Revenue Sharing Arrangement (RSR)

House: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee

9. **National Transportation Safety Board**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee

Senate: Under Public Services Transportation Sub-committee deliberation

10. **Ombudsman Charter Amendments**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee

Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation

11. **Plastic Bag Regulation Act**

House: Approved by Ecology Committee

Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation

12. **Sustainable Forest Management**

House: Under Natural Resources TWG deliberation

Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

13. **Whistle Blowers Protection Act**

House: Pending in Appropriations Committee

Senate: Under Justice Committee TWG deliberation





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14. ***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. 10th Regular Foreign Investment Negative List (EO 184) – signed May 29, 2015





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8. Salary Standardization Law (EO 201) – signed Feb 19, 2016
9. Institutionalizing the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee (EO 208 - June 2, 2016)

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 30th 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





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1. Personal Equity Retirement Account (RA 9505) – signed June 23, 2011
2. Real Estate Investment Trust Act (RA 9856) – signed December 17, 2009
3. Data Privacy Act (RA 10173) – signed Aug 15, 2012

