



ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES

A Project of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

PRIORITY BILLS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR (18th CONGRESS)*

I. Enacted into law

1. Transnational Higher Education Act (RA 11448) – signed August 28, 2019
2. Salary Standardization Law (RA 11466) – signed January 8, 2020
3. Amended Excise Tax Law on Alcohol, E-cigarettes (RA 11467) – signed January 22, 2020
4. Bayanihan to Heal as One Act/Emergency Powers law to address COVID-19 situation (RA 11469) – signed March 23, 2020
5. Bayanihan to Recover as One (RA 11494) – signed September 11, 2020
6. Streamlining Government Services in Times of National Emergency (RA 11517) – signed December 23, 2020
7. AMLA amendments (RA 11521) – signed January 29, 2021
8. Financial Institution Strategic Transfer Act (RA 11523) – signed February 16, 2021
9. Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (RA 11524) – signed February 26, 2021

*Updated as of April 30, 2021. 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 18th 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.

** RESPOND bills.

RSR – Bills requiring substantial reconsideration





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10. Tax Reform (TRAIN 2/TRABAHO/CREATE) (RA 11534) – signed March 26, 2021

II. For Bicam

1. Improving Confirmation Process of Imperfect Land Titles
2. Energy Research And Policy Institute Act

III. Approved on Second/Third Reading

1. Better Normal for Workplace, Public Spaces and Communities Act - RSR
Senate: Under Health Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading
2. Covid-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus
Senate: Pending in Finance Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
3. Declaring Mining-free Zone - Biliran - RSR
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved on Second Reading
4. Declaring Chinese New Year as NWH – RSR
Senate: Pending in Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Laws Cmte.
House: Approved on Third Reading





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5. Declaring the Iglesia ni Cristo Foundation every July 27 as NWH – RSR
Senate: Pending in Constitutional amendments and Revision of Laws Cmte.
House: Approved on Third Reading
6. Declaring April 27 Lapu-Lapu Day as NWH – RSR
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved on Third Reading
7. Delineation of Forest Limits
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee
House: Approved on Second Reading
8. Department of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
Senate: Under National Defense Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading
9. Digital Payments Bill
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
10. Digital Workforce Competitiveness/ Digital Careers bill
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading
11. E-government bill**
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading





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12. Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE)
Senate: Under Banks and Government Corporations Sub-committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading
13. Foreign Investments Act amendments**
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading
14. Granting Additional Service Incentive Leave (RSR)
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
15. Internet Transactions Act**
Senate: Under Trade Committee TWG deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading
16. National Transportation Safety Board Creation
Senate: Approved on Third Reading
House: Pending Second Reading
17. Public Services Act amendments**
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading
18. Real Property Valuation Reform
Senate: Pending in Finance Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading





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19. Retail Trade Act amendments**
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading

20. Rural Agricultural and Fisheries Development Financing System Act
Senate: Pending in Agriculture Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading

21. Security of Tenure (RSR)
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading

22. Single-Use Plastic Products
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee
House: Pending Second Reading

23. Sustainable Forest Management
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading

24. Tax Reform (TRAIN 4 – Financial Sector)
Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading

25. Waste-to-Energy bill
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading





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V. Pending Second Reading

1. Bank Secrecy Law amendments
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee
House: Pending Second Reading
2. Better Internet Act**
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved by ICT Committee
3. BOT Law amendments/Public-Private Partnership Act
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Under Public Works Committee deliberation
4. Ease of Paying Taxes
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
5. Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations**
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Under Energy, Ecology and Transportation TWG deliberation
6. Lifting foreign equity restrictions**
Senate: Under Constitutional Amendments Committee deliberation
House: Pending Second Reading
7. Mining fiscal regime bills (RSR)
Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee





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House: Pending Second Reading

8. Open Access in Data Transmission Act**
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee
House: Pending Second Reading
9. Regulation on employment of foreign nationals
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Pending in Labor Committee
10. Satellite-based Technologies Promotion Act
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
11. Thirty-five Hour Work Week Scheme (RSR)
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
12. VAT on Digital Transactions
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading

VI. **Approved by Committee**

1. Capital Market Development bill
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved by Banks Committee





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2. Civil Aviation Authority Act amendments
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved by Transportation Committee
3. Creative Industries bill**
Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation
House: Approved by Creative Industry and Ways and Means Committee; Pending with Appropriations Committee
4. Paid Pandemic Leave (RSR)
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved by Labor Committee
5. Philippine Airports Authority creation
Senate: Pending in Government Corporations Committee
House: Approved by Government Enterprises and Transportation Committees
6. Water Sector Reform Act
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee
House: Approved by Government Reorganization and Appropriations Committees

VII. Under Committee/TWG Deliberation

1. Bayanihan to Arise as One Act
Senate: Pending in Economic Affairs Committee
House: Under Economic Affairs TWG deliberation





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2. Contractor's License Law amendments**
Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation
House: Under Trade TWG deliberation
3. Freedom of Information
Senate: Pending in Public Information Committee
House: Under Public Information Committee deliberation
4. Granting Emergency Powers to the President to address Traffic Congestion/Creating the Office of Mobility Czar
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Pending in Transportation Committee
5. Unemployment Insurance
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee
House: Under Labor Committee TWG deliberation

VIII. Pending in Committee

1. Holiday Rationalization bill
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending in Revision of Laws Committee

