



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

*Updated as of August 23, 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.

Certified as urgent

RSR – Bills requiring substantial reconsideration





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9. Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (RA 11524) – signed February 26, 2021
10. Tax Reform (TRAIN 2/TRABAHO/CREATE) (RA 11534) – signed March 26, 2021
11. Energy Research And Policy Institute Act (RA 11572) – signed July 30, 2021
12. Improving Confirmation Process of Imperfect Land Titles (RA 11573) – signed July 16, 2021
13. Expanding the Jurisdiction of Municipal and Metropolitan Trial Courts (RA 11576) – signed July 30, 2021

II. Bicameral Conference

1. Retail Trade Act amendments**

2. National Transportation Safety Board Creation

III. Approved on Second/Third Reading

1. Bayanihan to Arise as One Act
Senate: Pending in Economic Affairs Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
2. Better Normal for Workplace, Public Spaces and Communities Act - RSR
Senate: Under Health Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading





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3. Capital Market Development bill
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved on Third Reading
4. Covid-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus
Senate: Pending in Finance Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
5. Data Privacy Act amendments
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee
House: Approved on Second Reading
6. Declaring Mining-free Zones - Biliran, Davao Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City - RSR
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved on Second Reading
7. Declaring Chinese New Year as NWH – RSR
Senate: Pending in Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Laws Cmte.
House: Approved on Third Reading
8. 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
9. Declaring April 27 Lapu-Lapu Day as NWH – RSR
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved on Third Reading





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10. Delineation of Forest Limits
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee
House: Approved on Second Reading
11. Department of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
Senate: Under National Defense Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading
12. Digital Payments bill
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
13. Digital Workforce Competitiveness/ Digital Careers bill
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading
14. E-government bill**
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading
15. Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations**
Senate: Approved Third Reading
House: Approved by Energy, Ecology, Transportation, Ways and Means, and Appropriations Committees
16. 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





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17. Foreign Investments Act amendments**

Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading

18. Freelancers Protection Act

Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading

19. Granting Additional Service Incentive Leave (RSR)

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

20. Internet Transactions Act**

Senate: Under Trade Committee TWG deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading

21. Lifting foreign equity restrictions**

Senate: Under Constitutional Amendments Committee deliberation
House: Approved on Third Reading

22. Open Access in Data Transmission Act**

Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee
House: Approved on Third Reading

23. Public Services Act amendments**

Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Approved on Third Reading





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24. Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

House: Approved on Third Reading

25. Rural Agricultural and Fisheries Development Financing System Act

Senate: Under Agriculture Committee deliberation

House: Approved on Third Reading

26. Satellite-based Technologies Promotion Act

Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee

House: Approved on Third Reading

27. Security of Tenure (RSR)

Senate: Pending in Labor Committee

House: Approved on Third Reading

28. Single-Use Plastic Products

Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

House: Approved on Third Reading

29. Sustainable Forest Management

Senate: Pending in Environment Committee

House: Approved on Third Reading

30. Tax Reform (TRAIN 4 – Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation)

Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation

House: Approved on Third Reading





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

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: Approved by Public Works; Ways and Means Committee
4. Ease of Paying Taxes
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
5. Mining fiscal regime bills (RSR)
Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee
House: Pending Second Reading
6. Regulation on employment of foreign nationals
Senate: Pending Second Reading
House: Pending in Labor Committee





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7. Thirty-five Hour Work Week Scheme (RSR)
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
8. VAT on Digital Transactions
Senate: No bill filed
House: Pending Second Reading
9. Water Sector Reform Act
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee
House: Pending Second Reading

VI. Approved by Committee

1. Adopt a 30-Year National Infrastructure Program
Senate: Pending in Public Works Committee
House: Under Public Works Committee deliberation
2. Civil Aviation Authority Act amendments
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee
House: Approved by Transportation Committee
3. Creative Industries bill**
Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation
House: Approved by Creative Industry, Ways and Means, and Appropriations Committee





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4. Paid Pandemic Leave (RSR)
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee
House: Approved by Labor Committee
5. Philippine Airports Authority creation
Senate: Pending in Government Corporations Committee
House: Approved by Government Enterprises and Transportation Committees;
Pending in Ways and Means; and Appropriations Committee
6. Philippine Competition Act amendments
Senate: No bill filed
House: Approved by Economic Affairs; Ways and Means Committee
7. Unemployment Insurance
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee
House: Approved by Labor Committee

VII. Under Committee/TWG Deliberation

1. Apprenticeship Act amendments
Senate: Pending in Higher, Technical and Vocational Education Committee
House: Under Labor Committee deliberation
2. Contractor's License Law amendments**
Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation
House: Under Trade TWG deliberation





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3. Freedom of Information
Senate: Pending in Public Information Committee
House: Under Public Information TWG 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. Spectrum Management Act
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee
House: Under ICT TWG deliberation

VIII. Pending in Committee

1. E-Commerce Act amendments
Senate: Pending in Trade Committee
House: Pending in Trade Committee

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

