



# ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES

A Project of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

## PRIORITY BILLS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR (18<sup>th</sup> 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

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\*Updated as of July 29, 2022. 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
14. **Retail Trade Act amendments\*\*** (RA 11595) – signed December 10, 2021
15. Microgrid Systems Act (RA 11646) – signed January 21, 2022
16. **Foreign Investments Act amendments (RA 11647)\*\*** - signed March 2, 2022
17. **Public Services Act amendments\*\*** (RA 11659) – signed March 21, 2022
18. Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations\*\* (RA 11697) – lapsed into law April 15, 2022
19. **Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act** (RA 11765) – signed into law May 6, 2022
20. Extended Producer’s Responsibility (RA 11898) - signed into law on July 23, 2022
21. Rural Agricultural and Fisheries Development Financing System Act (RA 11901) - lapsed into law on July 28, 2022





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22. Creative Industries bill\*\* (RA 11904) – lapsed into law on July 28, 2022

23. Digital Workforce Competitiveness/ Digital Careers bill (RA 11927) – lapsed into law on July 30, 2022

Vetoed:

National Transportation Safety Board Creation

## II. **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
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





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





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- House: Approved on Third Reading
13. Ease of Paying Taxes  
Senate: No bill filed  
House: Approved on Third Reading
  14. E-government bill\*\*  
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
  15. 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
  16. Freelancers Protection Act  
Senate: Pending Second Reading  
House: Approved on Third Reading
  17. Granting Additional Service Incentive Leave (RSR)  
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
  18. Internet Transactions Act\*\*  
Senate: Pending Second Reading  
House: Approved on Third Reading
  19. Lifting foreign equity restrictions\*\*  
Senate: Under Constitutional Amendments Committee deliberation  
House: Approved on Third Reading





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20. Open Access in Data Transmission Act\*\*  
Senate: Pending in Science and Technology Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
21. Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform  
Senate: Under Ways and Means Committee deliberation  
House: Approved on Third Reading
22. Satellite-based Technologies Promotion Act  
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
23. Security of Tenure (RSR)  
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
24. Single-Use Plastic Products  
Senate: Under Environment Committee deliberation  
House: Approved on Third Reading
25. Sustainable Forest Management  
Senate: Pending in Environment Committee  
House: Approved on Third Reading
26. 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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27. VAT on Digital Transactions  
Senate: No bill filed  
House: Approved on Third Reading

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

## V. Pending Second Reading

1. Adopt a 30-Year National Infrastructure Program  
Senate: Approved by Public Works Committee  
House: Pending Second Reading

2. Bank Secrecy Law amendments  
Senate: Pending in Banks Committee  
House: Pending Second Reading

3. Better Internet Act\*\*  
Senate: Pending Second Reading  
House: Approved by ICT Committee

4. BOT Law amendments/Public-Private Partnership Act  
Senate: Pending Second Reading  
House: Approved by Public Works; Ways and Means Committee

5. Mining fiscal regime bills (RSR)  
Senate: Pending in Ways and Means Committee





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- House: Pending Second Reading
6. Regulation on employment of foreign nationals  
Senate: Pending Second Reading  
House: Pending in Labor Committee
  7. Thirty-five Hour Work Week Scheme (RSR)  
Senate: No bill filed  
House: Pending Second Reading
  8. Water Sector Reform Act  
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee  
House: Pending Second Reading
- VI. Approved by Committee**
1. Civil Aviation Authority Act amendments  
Senate: Pending in Public Services Committee  
House: Approved by Transportation Committee
  2. Paid Pandemic Leave (RSR)  
Senate: Pending in Labor Committee  
House: Approved by Labor Committee
  3. 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
  4. Philippine Competition Act amendments







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Senate: No bill filed

House: Approved by Economic Affairs; Ways and Means Committee

5. Revised Intellectual Property Code

Senate: No bill filed

House: Approved by Trade Committee

6. Unemployment Insurance

Senate: Pending in Labor Committee

House: Approved by Labor; Ways and Means 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. CA 541 amendments

Senate: Under Economic Affairs Committee deliberation

House: Pending in Public Works Committee

3. Contractor's License Law amendments\*\*

Senate: Under Trade Committee deliberation

House: Under Trade TWG deliberation

4. Freedom of Information

Senate: Pending in Public Information Committee

House: Under Public Information TWG deliberation





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5. 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
  
6. Holiday Rationalization bill  
Senate: No bill filed  
House: Pending in Revision of Laws Committee
  
7. 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

