

Senate of the Philippines

Linkages Report

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The Linkages Report is a digest of the press releases regarding or related to legislation that is aimed to inform the public on various concerns and accomplishments of the Senate. In this issue, we are presenting the accomplishments of the Senate in terms of committee reports filed and bicameral committee meetings conducted during the Fourteenth Congress (July 23, 2007 – June 4, 2010)

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Conference Committee

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Source:	Performance of the Senate for the 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Regular Session of the Fourteenth Congress

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SENATE IN TERMS OF COMMITTEE REPORTS SUBMITTED/FILED

One of the measures to determine the accomplishments of the various committees is the number of committee reports submitted/filed. For three (3) Regular Sessions of the Fourteenth Congress, the following are the total of committee reports submitted:

❖	First Regular Session	78
❖	Second Regular Session	428
❖	Third Regular Session	299

Among the important committee reports submitted for the First, Second and Third Regular Sessions were as follows:

First Regular Session

- Committee Report No. 22 on HBN-2454: General Appropriations Act for CY 2008 1997 which was signed into law as R.A. 9498;
- Committee Report No. 6 on SB 1658: An Act to Provide Quality Affordable Medicines which was signed into law as R.A. 9502;
- Committee Report No. 35 on SB 2009: Expanding the Organizational Structure of the Court of Tax Appeals which was signed into law as R.A. 9503;
- Committee Report No. 35 on SB 2293: Individual Income Tax Rates Exemption which was signed into law as R.A. 9500

- Committee Report No. 3 on SB 1646: Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMSE) which was signed into law as R.A. 9501;
- Committee Report No. 5 on SB 1648: Extending the Utilization Period of the Agricultural Credit Enhancement Fund which was signed into law as R.A. 9496
- Committee Report No. 20 on SB 1532: “Compensation Act to Victims of Human Rights Violations” which is pending in the House of Representatives
- Committee Report No. 42 on SB 2121: “Electric Power Industry Reform Act” which is on the 2nd reading stage in the Senate
- Committee Report No. 18 on SB 1882: “The Personal Equity and Retirement Account Act” in which the Senate is asking for a conference committee
- Committee Report No. 28 on SB 1978: The Anti-Torture Act of 1978 which is pending 2nd Reading, Special Order in the Senate
- Committee Report No. 39 on SB 2077: The Per-Need Code which is pending in the House of Representatives
- Committee Report No. 28 on SB 1978: Expanding the Organizational Structure of the Court of Tax Appeals which was signed into law as R.A. No. 9503

In addition to these, The Senate concurred in the ratification of two treaties/agreements:

- *The Headquarters Agreement Between the Republic of the Philippines and the International Rice Research Institute; and*
- *The Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain.*

Second Regular Session

- Committee Report No. 457: on S. Jt. Res. 23 Compensation and Position Classification System in the Government
- Committee Report No. 299: on the Rent Control Act
- Committee Report No. 225: on Archipelagic Baselines, which served as amendments to R.A. 3046, as amended by
- R.A. 5446
- Committee Report No. 108: on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
- CR- 104: on the proposed Food, Drugs, Cosmetics and Devices Administration Act
- Committee Report No. 90: on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement
- Committee Report No. 534: on the proposed Freedom of Information Act
- Committee Report No. 529: on the proposed Bataan Economic Zone and Free Port Authority
- Committee Report No. 408: on the proposed Organic Agriculture Act
- Committee Report No. 394: on the proposed Witness Confidentiality Act
- Committee Report No. 501: on the Reduction of Electricity Cost
- Committee Report No. 502: on the proposed Social Security Condonation Law

- Committee Report No. 533: on the proposed Flag and Heraldic Code
- Committee Report No. 531: on the proposed Food Donation Act
- Committee Report No. 530: on the proposed Girl Scouts of the Philippines Charter
- Committee Report No. 505: on the National Red Cross Charter
- Committee Report No. 506: on amending the Migrant Workers Act
- Committee Report No. 321: on the proposed Act Penalizing Unfair Trade Practice
- Committee Report No. 303: on Regulating the Use of Mobile Phone while driving

Third Regular Session

- Committee Report No. 767 on House Bill (HB) No. 6767 other General Appropriations bill for CY 2010 which was signed into law as Republic Act (RA) No. 9970;
- Committee Report No. 777 on Senate Bill (SB) No. 3561 or The Expanded Senior Citizens bill which was signed into law as RA No. 9994;
- Committee Report No. 776 on SB No. 3560 or the Amendments to the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons which is awaiting the President's signature;
- Committee Report No. 611 on SB No. 3431 or the Agri Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009 which was signed into law as RA No. 10000;

- Committee Report No. 561 on SB No. 3404 or the Philippine Immigration Act is pending Conference Committee;
- Committee Report No. 743 on the ZTE Broadband Contract. The Senate investigation on the matter led to the cancellation of the contract by the President Gloria M. Arroyo;
- CR- 724 on SB 3502 and HB 6017: Life Insurance Premium Tax which was signed into law as RA No. 10001
- Committee Report No. 775 on SB No. 3554- Civil Service Eligibility to Casual Government Employees
- Committee Report No. 651 on SB No. 3460: Witness Protection, Security Benefit Act of 2009

During the Third Regular Session of the 14th Congress, the Senate also ratified five (5) treaties/agreements:

- The Host Country Agreement Between the Government of the Philippines and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity;
- The ASEAN Agreement on Trans boundary Haze Pollution;
- The Protocol addition to the Agreement between the Philippines and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Standards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and
- The International Convention in Simplification Harmonization of Customs Procedure (as amended)
- Known as the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)

LAWS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE PASSED THROUGH THE BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Several Laws of national importance went through the bicameral conference committee meetings before the same were signed by the President of the Philippines: The conference committee meetings held each regular session of the Fourteenth Congress is as follows:

❖	First Regular Session	8
❖	Second Regular Session	22
❖	Third Regular Session	34

Among the laws of national importance passed through the Bicameral Conference Committee for the First, Second and Third Regular Session were as follows:

First Regular Session

- RA 9498 General Appropriations Act of 2008
- RA 9502 Cheaper Medicines Act
- RA 9500 An Act to strengthen the University of the Philippines as the National University
- RA 9501 The Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- RA 9496 An Act to Extend the Utilization Period of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund
- RA 9499 An Act Allowing Filipino World War II Veterans to Continue Receiving Philippine Government Pensions and

Benefits Notwithstanding Similar Pensions and Benefits Provided by the United States

- RA 9497 An Act Creating the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, Authorizing Appropriations of Funds Therefore, and for other Purposes
- RA 9503 An Act Expanding the Organizational Structure of the Court of Tax Appeals

Second Regular Session

- RA 9593 The Tourism Act
- RA 9522 The Archipelagic Baselines Act
- RA 9520 The Cooperative Code
- RA 9576 An Act Increasing the Maximum Deposit Insurance Coverage

- RA 9507 The Socialized and Low-Cost Housing Loan Restructuring Program

- RA 9510 Credit Information System Act
- RA 9513 Renewable Energy Act 2008
- RA 9505 The Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) Act

- RA 9512 Environmental Awareness and Education Act

- RA 9514 Revised Fire Code of the Philippines

- RA 9521 National Book Development Trust Fund Act

Third Regular Session

- RA 9970 General Appropriations Act of 2010
- RA 10000 The Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act
- RA 9829 The Pre-Need Code
- RA 10022 The Migrant Workers Act
- RA 9745 The Anti-Torture Act
- RA 9995 Image Voyeurism
- RA 9775 The Anti Child Pornography Act
- RA 9997 National Commission on Muslim Filipinos

- RA 10001 Tax on Insurance Life Premiums
- RA 9946 Judiciary Retirement Benefits
- RA 9856 Real Estate Investment Company Act
- RA 9996 Mindanao Economic Development Authority

- RA 10026 Granting Tax Exemption to Local Water Districts

- RA 9904 Magna Carta for Homeowners

The Senate as an Institution

The Senate of the Philippines is one of the pillars of the country's lawmaking body, the one being the House of Representatives. It is composed of 24 elected Senators whose terms of office shall be six (6) years. This dynamic institution is established to balance our economic, social and political environment and whose concerns are national in scope.

As the bastion of democracy, its action is centered on consensus and consultation with the end purpose of serving the best interest of the Filipino people.

The **Senate** also values the importance of having productive and harmonious relationship with other institutions, from the government and the private sector, to create an environment where rapport and goodwill among institutions prevail. Its main objective is the passage of good, implementable and doable laws in pursuit of democratic ideals that would truly serve the national interest and the welfare of the people.

We will be happy to receive inquiry, comments, suggestions and recommendations on a particular law or Senate bill. You may send your letter to the address stated below:

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