



Senate of the Philippines
Executive Legislative Liaison Service

UPDATE

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF LAWS

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JULY 2017

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PART 1:

MONITORING MATRIX

This section contains information on the status of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of laws passed during the 16th Congress that have a broad national impact. The contents are based on:

- a) Feedback from implementing agencies;
- b) Websites of implementing agencies and other government offices; and
- c) News reports from reputable media outlets.

Laws with IRRs labeled **Approved** means that the IRR has been approved and published by the implementing agencies. The date of approval or publication is also indicated.

Laws with IRRs labeled **Pending** means that the IRR is still being drafted by the implementing agencies.

Laws with IRRs labeled **No Update** means that the status of the IRR is unknown due to

- a) Failure of implementing agencies to respond in time;
- b) Lack of information from other reputable sources; and/or
- c) Difficulty communicating with implementing agencies/point persons.

Laws with IRRs labeled **Not Explicitly Required** means that the law does not explicitly require implementing agencies to approve and publish an IRR.

Narrative reports are provided for some laws. If available, the page number of the narrative report is indicated.

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10635	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR COVENANTS RELATED THERETO		13-Mar-14	Approved	24-Jul-14
10639	AN ACT MANDATING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO SEND FREE MOBILE ALERTS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES	p.31	20-Jun-14	Approved	21-Jul-15
10640	AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2101<' REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002"		15-Jul-14	Approved	28-May-15
10641	AN ACT ALLOWING THE FULL ENTRY OF FOREIGN BANKS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7721	p.17	15-Jul-14	Approved	21-Nov-14
10642	AN ACT STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE PURCHASE OF BRAND NEW MOTOR VEHICLES	p.41	15-Jul-14	Approved	17-Nov-14
10643	AN ACT TO EFFECTIVELY INSTILL HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH GRAPHIC HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS		15-Jul-14	Approved	09-Feb-16
10644	AN ACT PROMOTING JOB GENERATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	p.41	15-Jul-14	Approved	19-Dec-14

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10645	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"	p.20	5-Nov-14	Not Explicitly Required	
10646	AN ACT CREATING THE QUEZON CITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (QCDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CAPITALIZATION		8-Nov-14	Not Explicitly Required	
10647	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LADDERIZED INTERFACE BETWEEN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND HIGHER EDUCATION		21-Nov-14	Approved	11-Jun-15
10648	AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO TOP GRADUATES OF ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR		27-Nov-14	No Update	
10649	AN ACT INCREASING THE BURIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000) TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR		27-Nov-14	Not Explicitly Required	
10650	AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BY INSTITUTIONALIZING OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING IN LEVELS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR		9-Dec-14	Approved	29-Feb-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10653	AN ACT ADJUSTING THE 13TH MONTH PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS CEILING EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPUTATION OF GROSS INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF INCOME TAXATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32(B), CHAPTER VI OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED		12-Feb-15	Approved	13-Mar-15
10654	AN ACT TO PREVENT, DETER AND EUMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING, AMENDING REPUBUC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS: 'THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		27-Feb-15	Approved	22-Sep-15
10655	AN ACT REPEALING THE CRIME OF PREMATURE MARRIAGE UNDER ARTICLE 351 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE		13-Mar-15	Not Explicitly Required	
10659	AN ACT PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		27-Mar-15	Approved	04-Aug-15
10660	AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE FUNCTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN, FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1606, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR		16-Apr-15	Not Explicitly Required	
10665	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR		9-Jul-15	No Update	
10666	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN ABOARD MOTORCYLES		21-Jul-15	Approved	04-Apr-17
10667	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY PROHIBITING ANTI-COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION AND ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE COMPETITION COMMISSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	p.43	21-Jul-15	Approved	16-Jun-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10668	AN ACT ALLOWING FOREIGN VESSELS TO TRANSPORT AND CO-LOAD FOREIGN CARGOES FOR DOMESTIC TRANSSHIPMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		21-Jul-15	Approved	16-May-16
10676	AN ACT PROTECTING THE AMATEUR NATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THE PHILIPPINES BY REGULATING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES		26-Aug-15	No Update	
10679	AN ACT PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH	p.49	27-Aug-15	Pending	
10687	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST), THEREBY RATIONALIZING ACCESS THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		15-Oct-15	Approved	11-May-16
10691	AN ACT DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE). THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs), AND ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO). AND THE OPERATION OF JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (EIs). AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3. 5. 6. 7 AND 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999"		26-Oct-15	Approved	22-Jun-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10692	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	p.34	3-Nov-15	Pending	
10693	AN ACT STRENGTHENING NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) ENGAGED IN MICROFINANCE OPERATIONS FOR THE POOR	p.44	3-Nov-15	Approved	16-Aug-16
10697	AN ACT PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY MANAGING THE TRADE IN STRATEGIC GOODS, THE PROVISION OF RELATED SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	p.29	13-Nov-15	Pending	
10699	AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF INCENTIVES GRANTED TO NATIONAL ATHLETES AND COACHES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9064, ALSO KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES AND TRAINERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001 OR SPORTS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001		13-Nov-15	Approved	22-Jun-16
10706	AN ACT PROTECTING SEAFARERS AGAINST AMBULANCE CHASING AND IMPOSITION OF EXCESSIVE FEES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR		26-Nov-15	Approved	19-Apr-16
10707	AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 968, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PROBATION LAW OF 1976, AS AMENDED		26-Nov-15	Approved	24-Jul-16
10708	AN ACT ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING OF TAX INCENTIVES, ADMINISTERED BY INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES		9-Dec-15	Approved	23-Jun-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10741	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 220 AND 222 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"		12-Jan-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10742	AN ACT ESTABLISHING REFORMS IN THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CREATING ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATION-BUILDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		15-Jan-16	Approved	10-Aug-16
10744	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF CREDIT SURETY FUND COOPERATIVES TO MANAGE AND ADMINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, COOPERATIVES AND NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO THE CREDIT FACILITY OF BANKS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	p.45	6-Feb-16	Pending	
10745	AN ACT ALLOWING NATURAL GAS POWER GENERATING PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY TO USE NEAT DIESEL AS AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL, EXEMPTING THEM FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH 5.3., SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9367, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006		26-Feb-16	Approved	24-Jun-16
10747	AN ACT PROMULGATING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH RARE DISEASE	p.20	3-Mar-16	Pending	
10752	AN ACT FACILITATING THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY SITE OR LOCATION FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS		7-Mar-16	Approved	25-May-16
10754	AN ACT EXPANDING THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD)	p.47	23-Mar-16	Approved	01-Dec-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10756	AN ACT RENDERING ELECTION SERVICE NON-COMPULSORY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF OTHER QUALIFIED CITIZENS, PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS	p.18	8-Apr-16	Pending	
10757	AN ACT REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF SURFACE MINE WORKERS FROM SIXTY (60) TO FIFTY (50) YEARS. AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 302 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"		8-Apr-16	Approved	06-Jan-17
10767	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE PLAN OF ACTION TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	p.21	26-Apr-16	Approved	05-May-17
10771	AN ACT PROMOTING THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	p.24	29-Apr-16	Pending	
10801	AN ACT GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION	p.25	10-May-16	Approved	08-Mar-17
10816	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF FARM TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES		16-May-16	No Update	
10817	AN ACT INSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		16-May-16	No Update	
10821	AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS		18-May-16	Approved	28-Feb-17

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10844	AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	p.36	23-May-16	Approved	17-Oct-16
10845	AN ACT DECLARING LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	p.16	23-May-16	Approved	09-May-17
10846	AN ACT ENHANCING THE RESOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION FRAMEWORK FOR BANKS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3591, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER RELATED LAWS		23-May-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10848	AN ACT FURTHER EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (ACEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9496, ENTITLED: AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT RICE, WITH TARIFFS, CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		23-May-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10863	AN ACT MODERNIZING THE CUSTOMS AND TARIFF ADMINISTRATION	p.47	30-May-16	Pending	
10864	AN ACT DEFINING RAW SUGAR OR RAW CANE SUGAR, AMENDING SECTION 109(A) AND (F) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		10-Jun-16	No update	
10867	AN ACT REORGANIZING AND MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR	p.23	23-Jun-16	Approved	20-Dec-16

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10868	AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		23-Jun-16	Approved	26-Sep-16
10869	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOBSTART PHILIPPINES PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR	p.27	29-Jun-16	Pending	
10870	AN ACT REGULATING THE PHILIPPINE CREDIT CARD INDUSTRY		17-Jul-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10871	AN ACT REQUIRING BASIC EDUCATION STUDENTS TO UNDERGO AGE-APPROPRIATE BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING		17-Jul-16	No Update	
10878	AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING DIRECT CREDIT SUPPORT OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES, SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3844, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM CODE, AS AMENDED	p.19	17-Jul-16	Pending	
10881	AN ACT AMENDING INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS IN SPECIFIC LAWS GOVERNING ADJUSTMENT COMPANIES, LENDING COMPANIES, FINANCING COMPANIES AND INVESTMENT HOUSES CITED IN THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT NEGATIVE LIST AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		17-Jul-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10882	AN ACT EXEMPTING SURVIVING CHILDREN OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE MENTALLY INCAPACITATED FROM TERMINATION OF BENEFITS UPON REACHING THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE (21), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 25 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AFP MILITARY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION DECREE OF 1979, AS AMENDED		17-Jul-16	Not Explicitly Required	

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10883	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW ANTI-CARNAPPING LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES	p.32	17-Jul-16	Pending	
10884	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BALANCED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992	p.46	17-Jul-16	Approved	03-May-17
10906	AN ACT PROVIDING STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST UNLAWFUL PRACTICES, BUSINESSES, AND SCHEMES OF MATCHING AND OFFERING FILIPINOS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE OF COMMON LAW PARTNERSHIP, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6955, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE ANTI-MAIL ORDER BRIDE LAW		21-Jul-16	No update	
10908	AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF FILIPINO-MUSLIM AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDENTITY IN THE STUDY OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY IN BOTH BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION		21-Jul-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10910	AN ACT INCREASING THE PRESCRIPTIVE PERIOD FOR VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT, FROM FIFTEEN (15) YEARS TO TWENTY (20) YEARS, AMENDING SECTION 11 THEREOF		21-Jul-16	Not Explicitly Required	
10911	AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL IN EMPLOYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF AGE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR	p.27	21-Jul-16	Approved	02-Feb-17

RA No.	Title	Narrative Report	Date Approved	IRR Status	IRR Approval or Publication Date
10912	AN ACT MANDATING AND STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR ALL REGULATED PROFESSIONS, CREATING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES		21-Jul-16	Approved	15-Feb-17
10913	AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING DISTRACTED DRIVING		21-Jul-16	Approved	06-Jul-17
10916	AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF SPEED LIMITER IN PUBLIC UTILITY AND CERTAIN TYPES OF VEHICLE	p.33	21-Jul-16	Pending	
10917	AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF R.A. 9547 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PROVISIONS OF R.A. 7323, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS		21-Jul-16	Approved	20-Mar-17

PART 2:

NARRATIVE REPORTS

This section contains reports on the implementation of selected laws. The primary source of information of these reports is feedback from the implementing agencies. In some cases, information from other reputable sources was also incorporated.

These laws were selected based on the following criteria:

- a) Potential national impact; and
- b) Information gathered by ELLS is adequate for a narrative report.

Agriculture and Food

RA 10845

An Act Declaring Large-Scale Agricultural Smuggling as an Economic Sabotage, Prescribing Penalties Therefor and for Other Purposes

S. No. 2923, H. No. 6380

Approved on May 23, 2016

This law defines “large-scale agricultural smuggling” as the act of importing products such as sugar, corn, pork poultry, fish and cruciferous vegetables worth at least PhP 1 million, or rice worth at least PhP 10 million, without the required import permit from regulatory agencies.

Update

The Bureau of Customs through Commissioner Nicanor E. Faeldon informed the Senate that the IRR of this law was issued as Customs Administrative Order No. 2-2017 dated May 9, 2017. It was forwarded to the Office of the National Administrative Register on May 15, 2017 and published in the Manila Times two days later.

Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

RA 10641

An Act Allowing the Full Entry of Foreign Banks in the Philippines, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7721

S. No. 2159, H. No. 3984

Approved on July 15, 2014

This law allows the Monetary Board to authorize foreign banks to operate in the Philippines (subject to certain conditions) via:

- Acquiring, purchasing or owning up to 100% of the voting stock of an existing bank;
- Investing in up to 100% of the voting stock of a new banking subsidiary incorporated under the laws of the Philippines; and
- Establishing branches with full banking authority.

The Monetary Board is also authorized to issue such rules and regulations as may be needed to implement this law.

Foreign banks authorized to operate under this law shall perform the same functions, enjoy the same privileges, and be subject to the same limitations imposed upon a Philippine bank of the same category. Moreover, this law lifts the previous restriction on the locations of additional branches of foreign banks.

Update

As of May 25, 2017, nine foreign lenders have secured approval to set up branches in the Philippines: four from Taiwan (Cathay United Bank, Yuanta Commercial Bank Co. Ltd., First Commercial Bank, and Hua Nan Commercial Bank Ltd), three from South Korea (Industrial Bank of Korea, Shinhan Bank, and Woori Bank), one from Japan (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.), and one from Singapore (United Overseas Bank Ltd.). Moreover, an additional eight Asian banks have expressed interest (Source: BusinessWorld¹).

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued Circular No. 858 on November 21, 2014 to serve as the IRR of this law. It was later published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Malaya on November 27, 2014 and December 2, 2014, respectively. It took effect on December 17, 2014.

¹ <http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Finance&title=eight-asian-banks-eyeing-phl-presence&id=145728>

Electoral Reforms and Peoples' Participation

RA 10756

An Act Rendering Election Service Non-Compulsory for Public School Teachers, Authorizing the Appointment of Other Qualified Citizens, Providing for Compensation and other Benefits

S. No. 2178, H. No. 5412

Approved on April 8, 2016

Known as the "Election Service Reform Act", this law allows private school teachers and selected national government employees to render election service in case of a lack of public school teachers willing, available or qualified to serve. It sets rates of the honoraria and allowances, service credit and other benefits for participants.

Update

Director Teofisto E. Elnas Jr. of the Commission on Elections (Comelec)-Election and Barangay Affairs Department reported that the IRR is still being drafted. The latest version was submitted to the members of the Commission *en banc* on May 30, 2017 for their review and approval.

Director Elnas noted that the draft IRR was the result of a series of consultative meetings with representatives of the Department of Justice, Department of Education and Comelec Field Offices, as well as advocacy groups such as Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE), Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT). The latest meeting was held on May 25, 2017.

Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

RA 10878

An Act Strengthening and Institutionalizing Direct Credit Support of the Land Bank of the Philippines to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries, Small Farmers and Fisherfolk, Further Amending Republic Act No. 3844, Otherwise Known as the “Agricultural Land Reform Code”, As Amended

H. No. 3785

Approved on July 17, 2016

This law requires Landbank to allocate 5% of its regular loan portfolio (net of loans to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), interbank loans and availments from domestic bills purchase line), for socialized credit to qualified small farmers, fisherfolk and agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). Only agricultural projects pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009 (RA 10000) may be financed. The maximum interest rate of loans under this facility shall not exceed 75% of Landbank's prevailing rates for loans to cooperatives.

It also allows Landbank to offer and issue common and preferred shares of stocks to ARBs, small farmers and fisherfolk through their organizations, cooperatives, federations and cooperative banks; development partners and strategic investors such as multilateral and bilateral institutions; and rural banks and their associations. However, the national government shall maintain at least two-thirds 2/3 ownership of the total outstanding common shares.

Update

Assistant Governor Elmore O. Capule of the BSP notified the Senate that the IRR is still being drafted. He said that the BSP is working closely with Landbank to finalize “the details of the lending terms and conditions and eligibility criteria of the social credit, as well as the manner of issuance of Landbank shares of stock to designated eligible investors”.

Health and Demography

RA 10645

An Act Providing for the Mandatory Philhealth Coverage for All Senior Citizens, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432, As Amended by Republic Act No. 9994, Otherwise Known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”

S. No. 712, H. No. 4593

Approved on November 5, 2014

This law mandates the enrollment of all senior citizens to the national health insurance program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth).

Update

Philhealth reported to the Senate in 2015 that the corporation created a new membership category called “Senior Citizen” for elderly Filipinos not covered under any existing category of the National Health Insurance Program, while retaining the membership of those currently enrolled in other programs (e.g. Indigents, Employed, Self-employed).

Furthermore, the corporation allowed the automatic availment of benefits (deducted from patient’s hospitalization fees) by presenting an OSCA-issued senior citizen’s card or any valid government issued ID accompanied by an accomplished Philhealth Member Registration Form. This arrangement helps guarantee the access of senior citizens to Philhealth benefits even if they have not yet enrolled in the program. Thus, Philhealth effectively achieved de facto 100% coverage of senior citizens. This arrangement is outlined in Phihealth Circular 33-2014 published on December 23, 2014.

RA 10747

An Act Promulgating a Comprehensive Policy in Addressing the Needs of Persons with Rare Disease

S. No. 2990, H. No. 5973

Approved on March 3, 2016

Known as the “Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines”, this law sets guidelines on identification, referral, management and registration of persons with rare disease. It classifies affected individuals as “persons with disabilities (PWD)”, effectively conferring to them all the rights and privileges accorded to PWDs specified in other laws and regulations. It creates the “Rare Disease Technical Working Group (RDTWG)” under the Department of Health (DOH), which is tasked with identifying rare diseases or disorders, identifying and regulating orphan drugs and orphan

products, and establishing a system to ensure the regular updating of information, diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases.

Update

DOH Undersecretary Gerardo V. Bayugo told the Senate that the IRR is currently being reviewed by partner implementing agencies, including the University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health. Meanwhile, DOH has set up the RDTWG to discuss future directions of the law and its IRR.

RA 10767

An Act Establishing a Comprehensive Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis as a Public Health Problem and Appropriating Funds Therefor

S. No. 2653, H. No. 5042

Approved on April 26, 2016

This law requires the Department of Health to establish a Comprehensive Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis containing the following information:

- Targets and strategies;
- Prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, support and other specific components;
- Development and application of appropriate technologies to diagnose and treat the disease;
- Steps to strengthen linkages with local and international organizations;
- Establishment of a review and monitoring system; and
- Mobilization of anti-TB services during and after natural and man-made disasters.

This law also includes provisions on strengthening the national and regional coordinating committees, and regional centers for health development; research, demonstration projects, education and training; information and communication; and regulations on the sale and use of TB drugs, among others.

Update

Undersecretary Gerardo V. Bayugo of the Department of Health (DOH) informed the Senate that the IRR was approved on April 24, 2017. It was forwarded to the National Administrative Register on May 4, 2017 and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star the following day.

DOH is currently working on a booklet on the IRR, which is scheduled to be launched during the Philippine Coalition Against TB Convention on August 17, 2017.

Justice and Human Rights

RA 10867

An Act Reorganizing and Modernizing the National Bureau of Investigation and Providing Funds Therefor

S. No. 2950, H. No. 5855

Approved on June 23, 2016

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Reorganization and Modernization Act seeks to “enhance and modernize” the NBI by revising the organizational structure and upgrading positions and salaries. It also specifies the agency’s powers and functions, qualifications of officials and employees, and funding sources.

Update

Director Dante A. Gierran of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) reported that the IRR was published on December 20, 2016 in the Philippine Star and Malaya. Several meetings are being held to finalize the proposed organizational structure of the agency’s various services and divisions.

Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

RA 10771

An Act Promoting the Creation of Green Jobs, Granting Incentives and Appropriating Funds Therefor

S No. 3092, H No. 6100

Approved on April 25, 2016

This law offers incentives to businesses that generate and sustain green jobs as certified by the Climate Change Commission. These are:

- Special deduction from the taxable income equivalent to 50% of the total expenses for skills training and research development expenses which is over and above the allowable ordinary and necessary business deductions for said expenses under current regulations; and
- Tax and duty free importation of capital equipment.

These incentives are on top of other incentives granted or provided under existing laws and regulations.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is tasked with formulating a National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan to facilitate “the transition into a green economy and the generation of green jobs”. The agency, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority, shall maintain a database of “green” careers, professions and skills, and a list of emerging business enterprises that generate and sustain such jobs. DOLE shall also oversee skills training and certification.

Other agencies involved in implementing this law are:

- Department of Finance (to administer the grant of incentives);
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (to establish and maintain a climate change information management system);
- Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (to implement the training, education and curriculum development component);
- Professional Regulation Commission (to encourage the development of qualifications framework);
- Department of Science and Technology (to support training and provide business development support to micro, small and medium enterprises);
- Department of Transportation (to ensure mainstreaming of green jobs in sectoral development plans and encourage more investments in public transport infrastructure and services);

- Department of Tourism (to outline sustainable tourism planning and pursue an integrated approach to promote sustainable tourism);
- Department of Public Works and Highways (to promote green building practices); and
- Climate Change Commission (to develop and administer appropriate standards for assessing and certifying green goods and services, and green technologies and practices).

Update

DOLE OIC-Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon reported to the Senate that the draft IRR is currently with the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), the proponent of this law. BLE will integrate comments of the DOLE Legal Service before endorsing it to the Labor Secretary for approval.

The draft IRR was developed through a series of consultations with the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) pursuant to RA 10395. This law designated the TIPC as “the main consultative mechanism and advisory body of the social partners on labor and employment lodged with the Bureau of Labor Relations”, an attached agency of DOLE. Composed of representatives from labor unions, employers, and government, TIPC is tasked with presenting tripartite positions on labor, economic, and social concerns.

RA 10801

An Act Governing the Operations and Administration of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

S No. 2955, H No. 4990

Approved on May 10, 2016

Known as the “Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Act”, this law seeks to clarify the role of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), as well as outline policies with respect to fund management, programs and services administration. It classifies OWWA as a “chartered institution” attached to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Based on this law, the OWWA is composed of the OWWA Board of Trustees, which acts as the policy-making body, and the OWWA Secretariat as the Board’s implementing arm. Meanwhile, the OWWA Fund is defined as a private fund held in trust by the agency. It can only be used to serve the welfare of member-OFWs and their families, including the financing of core programs and services of the OWWA.

Update

OWWA Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac informed the Senate that the IRR was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Manila Bulletin on March 8, 2017. It was sent to the Office of the National Administrative Register on the same day.

The agency launched the following policies and programs to implement specific provisions of the IRR:

- Cash relief assistance to member-OFWs who suffer disabilities as a result of crime or accident, or those with illness not covered under the MEDplus program. Launched in February 2017, the MEDplus program offers supplemental medical relief for active OWWA and Philhealth-member OFWs affected by dreaded disease and hospitalized here or abroad;
- OWWA android app downloadable via the Google Store where clients can renew their membership, apply for specific programs and benefits, and send feedback and complaints to the OWWA administration;
- Special Order No. 095 constituting the members of the Screening and Selection Committee for the selection of sectoral members of the Board of Trustees;
- Commissioning the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) to conduct a management audit. The proposed organizational plan will be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) after approval by the Board of Trustees;
- Competency-based System Manual for the agency's competency-based qualification system to be rolled out after DBM approves the reorganization plan; and
- Preparations for an actuarial study on rebates for OFW-members who have been members for 10 years and have not availed of any service or benefit from the agency.

Mr. Cacdac noted, however, that bills proposing for the creation of a Department for Overseas Filipinos “impinge on the operation and administration of OWWA”. Furthermore, the UP-NCPAG proposal “might not be entirely consistent” with the requirements of the proposed Rightsizing the National Government program, which is a priority of the current administration.

RA 10869

An Act Institutionalizing the Nationwide Implementation of the Jobstart Philippines Program and Providing Funds Therefor

S No. 3091, H No. 6415

Approved on June 29, 2016

Known as the “Jobstart Philippines Act”, this law seeks to shorten the youth’s school to work transition by enhancing the knowledge and skills acquired in formal education or technical training. Employment facilitation services include life skills training, technical training, job matching, and referrals to employers either for further technical training, internship, or employment. Trainees receive a daily training allowance of not less than 75% of the prevailing minimum wage in the city or municipality where the establishment is located.

Update

DOLE OIC-Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon reported that the draft IRR is currently with the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), an attached agency of DOLE and proponent of this law. BLE will integrate the comments of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the DOLE Legal Service before endorsing the IRR to the Labor Secretary for approval.

The draft IRR was developed through a series of consultations with the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) pursuant to RA 10395. This law designated the TIPC as “the main consultative mechanism and advisory body of the social partners on labor and employment lodged with the Bureau of Labor Relations”, an attached agency of DOLE. Composed of representatives from labor unions, employers, and government, TIPC is tasked with presenting tripartite positions on labor, economic, and social concerns.

RA 10911

An Act Prohibiting Discrimination Against Any Individual in Employment on Account of Age and Providing Penalties Therefor

S. No. 29, H. No. 6418

Approved on July 21, 2016

Known as the “Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act”, this law imposes fines and penalties on employers and organizations that discriminate against applicants on account of age. Unlawful acts include:

- Printing or publishing in any form of media any notice of advertisement relating to employment suggesting preferences, limitations, specifications, and discrimination based on age;
- Requiring the declaration of age or birth date during the application process;
- Declining any employment application because of the individual's age;
- Discriminating against an individual in terms of compensation, terms and conditions or privileges of employment on account of such individual's age;
- Denying any employee's or worker's promotion or opportunity for training because of age;
- Forcibly laying off an employee or worker because of old age;
- Imposing early retirement on the basis of such employee's or worker's age; and
- Denying membership to any individual because of age.

Update

Director Johnson Cañete of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regional office for the National Capital Region stressed the need to educate employers of this law. He also encouraged those affected by age discrimination to report erring employers to DOLE (Source: Inquirer²).

² <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/893516/firms-warned-on-bias-vs-older-job-seekers>

National Defense and Security

RA 10697

An Act Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by Managing the Trade in Strategic Goods, the Provision of Related Services, and for Other Purposes

S. No. 2762, H. No. 5822

Approved on November 13, 2015

The Strategic Trade Management Act establishes a National Strategic Goods List which specifies the strategic goods subject to authorization. The list must conform to international commitments and non-proliferation obligations pursuant to bilateral and multilateral treaties, international conventions and international non-proliferation regimes.

This law creates the National Security Council (NSC)-Strategic Trade Management Committee (NSC-STMCom) to function as "the central authority on any and all matters relating to strategic trade management". It is chaired by the Executive Secretary, with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary as Vice Chairperson, and selected cabinet secretaries as members. The Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO) serves as "the executive and technical agency of the national government for the establishment of the management systems for the trade in strategic goods". The STMO is a bureau under the administrative supervision of DTI.

Update

National Security Advisor Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr. informed the Senate that the IRR is still pending. The following activities were held to support the creation of the IRR:

- The drafting of the IRR, establishment of the Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO), adoption of the Philippines' National Strategic Goods List, and the Single Licensing System were discussed during the first Organizational Meeting of the NSC-Project Management Center (NSC-STMCom) on February 16, 2017;
- In line with Section 8 of this law, the DTI planned to establish an STMO to serve as the executive and technical agency of the national government on strategic goods trade. However, the office is not yet operational after being excluded from the 2017 budget of DTI;

- After a series of public consultations, the final draft of the IRR will be presented to NSC-STMCom member-agencies for their approval during the next organizational meeting tentatively scheduled this month (July 2017).

Public Information and Mass Media

RA 10639

An Act Mandating the Telecommunications Service Providers to Send Free Mobile Alerts in the Event of Natural and Man-made Disasters and Calamities

H. No. 353

Approved on June 20, 2014

This law requires mobile phone service providers to send out alerts at regular intervals as required by disaster response and prevention agencies such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

The free alerts are sent directly to mobile phone subscribers located near and within the affected areas. They contain the latest information on evacuation areas, relief sites, pick-up points, and contact details of relevant agencies.

Update

Telecommunication companies began testing their emergency alert systems in January 2017 (Source: Rappler³).

³ <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/disasters/159772-telecommunication-companies-test-emergency-alert-system>

Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

RA 10883

An Act Providing for a New Anti-Carnapping Law of the Philippines

S. No. 2794, H. No. 4544

Approved on July 17, 2016

This law imposes penalties on those who commit carnapping, which is defined as “the taking, with intent to gain, of a motor vehicle belonging to another without the latter’s consent, or by means of violence against or intimidation of persons, or by using force upon things”. It also prohibits the concealment of carnapping, defacing or tampering with serial numbers, and the sale of second hand spare parts taken from a carnapped vehicle, among others.

Update

Philippine National Police Chief PDG Ronald M. Dela Rosa informed the Senate that the final draft of the IRR was forwarded to the legal department of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) on May 22, 2017. Meanwhile, Asec. Edgar C. Galvante of the Land Transportation Office (an attached agency of DOTr) reported that their technical working group is still finalizing the IRR.

PDG Dela Rosa highlighted a concern raised by the Highway Patrol Group on the penalties imposed under Section 4 of the law.

As Section 4 is currently worded, a “natural” person who commits “concealment of carnapping” may be held liable for an imprisonment penalty of six to twelve years and a fine equal to the amount of the acquisition cost of the motor vehicle, motor vehicle engine, or any other part involved in the violation. But when a “juridical” person violates any provision of the law aside from carnapping and concealment, the same imprisonment, penalty and fine shall be imposed upon its president, secretary and/or board members, or any officer or employee who may have directly participated in the violation.

The PNP sent a letter to Senator Grace Poe dated August 8, 2016 requesting for clarification. Their response was that “it is clear and explicit” that the penalties and fines “shall be imposed in cases of violation of all the unlawful acts punishable under the law, aside from carnapping itself”.

The PNP is advocating for the inclusion of this clarification in the IRR to aid in the implementation of the law.

Public Services

RA 10916

An Act Requiring the Mandatory Installation of Speed Limiter in Public Utility and Certain Types of Vehicles

S. No. 2999, H. No. 5911

Approved on July 21, 2016

Known as the “Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016”, this law requires closed van, hauler or cargo trailer, PUV, shuttle service, tanker truck, and other “closed vehicles” to install a speed limiter in accordance with the standards and specifications approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

Update

Assistant Secretary Edgar C. Galvante of the Land Transportation Office informed the Senate that the IRR is awaiting the approval of DOTr Secretary Arthur P. Tugade. Meanwhile, DOTr Undersecretary Anneli R. Lontoc reported that the draft IRR is also awaiting the approval of the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Science and Technology

RA 10612

An Act Expanding the Coverage of the Science and Technology Scholarship Program and Strengthening the Teaching of Science and Mathematics in Secondary Schools and for Other Purposes

S. NO. 3400, H. NO. 6860

Approved on August 23, 2013

This law seeks to strengthen the country's science and technology education by fast-tracking graduates in the sciences, mathematics and engineering who shall teach science and mathematics subjects in high schools. It provides scholarships to finance the education of talented and deserving students in their third year of college, as well as incentives for them to pursue a career in teaching in high schools, especially in their home regions.

RA 10612 also sets conditions and incentives for return of service, as well as options for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates who did not receive the scholarship but intend to teach in high school.

Update

The IRR was approved by the Secretaries of the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Education on August 4, 2014. The number of scholars under this law has grown from 500 in 2014 to 2,000 in 2016. This figure is expected to grow further to 2,684 in 2017.

RA 10692

An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

S. No. 2834, H. No. 4397

Approved on November 3, 2015

The modernization of PAGASA includes the following components:

- Modernization of Physical Resources and Operational Techniques;
- Enhancement of Research and Development Capability;
- Establishment of Regional Weather Service Centers;
- Establishment of PAGASA Data Center;
- Enhancement of Weather Data Collection and Information Dissemination Services;

- Creation of a Human Resource Development Program;
- New Salary Scale for PAGASA Personnel;
- PAGASA Personnel Retention Incentive;
- Scholarship Program;
- Development of Regional and International Cooperation Program.

This law creates a PAGASA Modernization Fund, of which PhP 3 billion will be sourced from the national government share in the gross income of PAGCOR. Other potential funding sources include income from PAGASA products, services and programs; and loans, grants, bequests and donations from local and foreign sources.

Update

PAGASA Administrator Vicente B. Malano reported to the Senate the following developments regarding the IRR of this law:

- February 6, 2017: Draft IRR sent to chairperson of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IA-TWC);
- February 13, 2017: Received comments from the IA-TWC chairperson;
- February 16, 2017: Held meeting to finalize IRR and modernization program;
- March 14, 2017: Sent copy of draft IRR to Department of Budget and management (DBM);
- March 22, 2017: Received comments from DBM;
- March 27, 2017: Submitted updated copy of draft IRR to DBM incorporating comments from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and IA-TWC; and
- April 3, 2017: Sent another reply to DBM regarding their additional comments and suggestions.

Meanwhile, the agency performed the following while awaiting final approval of the IRR:

- Closely coordinate with DBM on budgetary requirements of the modernization plan, particularly on the procurement of equipment;
- Forward the draft new salary scale, retention incentive program, and organizational restructuring to the DBM Organization, Position and Classification Bureau, and the Systems and Productivity Improvement Bureau; and
- Hold meetings with the Civil Service Commission on developing new qualification standards aligned with the modernization program.

RA 10844

An Act Creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Defining its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes

S. No. 2686, H. No. 6198

Approved on May 23, 2016

This law creates the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to serve as the main policy, planning, coordinating, implementing and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of government. It is mandated to plan, develop, and promote the national development agenda with respect to information and communications technology (ICT).

Update

DICT Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalima reported to the Senate the following key accomplishments of the agency:

1. National Broadband Plan (NBP): Provide universal, faster, and affordable internet access. Strategies include policy and regulatory reforms, infrastructure investment, and stimulation of broadband demand. By the end of the President's term, 100% of local government units will be connected to a high-speed government broadband backbone, while households enjoy 10Mbps connections at a cost of less than 5% of household income.
 - Developed the NBP framework in close collaboration with stakeholders;
 - Approved by the President on March 6, 2017;
 - Launched during the Telecom Summit on March 9-10, 2017;
 - Currently reviewing the implementation strategy to help ensure faster fruition of goals;
 - Currently working with the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) in studying feasibility of using NGCP fiber optic cables.

2. National Government Portal: Envisioned as a "one-stop-shop" of government services. The portal "will serve as the backbone of an interoperable and interconnected e-government".
 - Approved by the President on March 6, 2017;
 - After consulting with government agencies and stakeholders, soft-launched on December 2016;
 - Ongoing development of Authoritative Registries and Government Common Platform to provide credible information for sharing and validation among government agencies;

- Proposed policy initiatives include United Web Content Policy, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (ISO 40500), and Social Media Policy;
 - Proposed Executive Order on portal migration of government agencies.
3. Free Wifi Internet Access in Public Places Project: Enhance internet accessibility and bridge the so-called “digital divide”
- Establish 13,024 sites in 2017;
 - So far, connectivity made available to 330 public places across 61 localities, including 61 public educational institutions;
 - So far, 14 Points-of-Presence (PoP) sites established in key cities across the country. Some 830,550 unique devices have accessed the network as of June 2017;
 - Currently working to provide free wifi to the whole stretch of EDSA in Metro Manila;
 - Currently reviewing terms of reference and implementation strategy to accelerate deployment to target sites;
 - Key bottleneck is the long and tedious permitting process of local government units which, on average, lasts about six months. A draft executive order expediting this process is currently being reviewed by Malacañang.
4. Tech4ED: Establish Tech4ED centers nationwide for unserved communities to improve education, employment and entrepreneurship;
- 864 Tech4ED centers established nationwide;
 - 2,500% increase in number of users from 2015 to 2016 (1,358 to 35,824);
 - Held 91 center managers training.
5. Digital PH Program: Promote technology opportunities in the countryside through the Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry;
- a. Next Wave Cities: Create and develop ICT hubs to serve as business, innovation, and investment destinations outside Metro Manila; Implemented in collaboration with the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines;
- Establishment of ICT Councils as local champions and DICT partners in developing local ICT ecosystems, especially in the countryside. So far there are 70 ICT councils nationwide;

- Held roadshows workshops, summits and seminars to raise awareness and enhance capability;
 - Gave out awards and recognition (i.e. Center of Excellence, Top Ten Next Wave Cities) to various locations based on readiness to locate IT-BPM companies;
- b. Stepping Up the Value Chain: Develop higher-value and more complex capabilities in the IT-BPM sector. Target capabilities include healthcare information management, software engineering and development, finance and accounting, digital animation, data science, and games;
- Launched the 2022 IT-BPM Roadmap, which sets the overall direction of the industry in maintaining global leadership in IT-BPM;
 - Facilitated local and global exposure of homegrown ICT companies to gain better business traction in appropriate markets;
 - Supported upgrading of ICT professionals' capability, especially in specialized skills;
- c. seedPH: Promote technology entrepreneurship and help develop the country's startup ecosystem;
- Established and strengthened grassroots "startup communities" via training programs and other events;
 - So far, supported 114 startups through mentoring and marketing.
6. Impact Sourcing: Promote technology-enabled jobs as a high-value economic activity in rural communities that are not yet ready to host IT-BPM operations. It targets disadvantaged individuals in the countryside with inadequate access to traditional employment;
- Held the first Philippine Impact Sourcing Conference on April 5-6, 2017 in Davao City to
 - Promote the country as a preferred hub for global online freelancing and rural impact sourcing;
 - Promote ICT-enabled jobs through rural BPOs and other online freelancing opportunities in less developed areas;
 - Improve awareness of opportunities of impact sourcing and online work in the countryside.
7. Held the Philippine Telecommunications Summit on March 9-10, 2017, which gathered stakeholders from industry, government, academe, and non-government organizations to discuss pressing issues on speed, cost and coverage.

8. Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) Migration Plan: Addressed policy, regulatory and technical issues on the country's migration to digital TV;
 - National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Memorandum Circular No. 05-11-2013 officially adopted Japan's ISDB-T as the sole standard in delivering digital television services in the country;
 - DTTB Migration Plan was developed in coordination with stakeholders, including broadcasters;
 - Held the first Digital TV Summit on February 14-15, 2017 to raise awareness of issues and challenges related to the upcoming shift to digital TV;
 - Analog switch-off targeted by 2023.

9. National Cybersecurity Plan 2022: Implement "cyber resiliency" measures to enhance the country's ability to respond to threats before, during, and after attacks;
 - Held the first Cyber Security Summit on December 8, 2016 to raise awareness of issues surrounding cybersecurity, and gather inputs from experts on how to better protect the country's digital infrastructure;
 - Signed a MOA with Cybersecurity Malaysia to enhance the two countries' response to threats.

10. Others
 - a. Intergated Government Philippines Project (iGovPhil)
 - Enhanced government capacity to store and manage critical data through the National Government Data Center and Government Cloud (GovCloud), and rolled out faster and more efficient network through the Government Network (GovNet);
 - Sustainable provision of shared services (e.g. GovMail, PNPKI, Namris, PMGov) and platform (webhosting, interoperability framework, common platform, open data);
 - Strengthened government sectoral business permit and licensing system automation, information exchange, and authoritative registries;
 - b. Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System (eBPLS)
 - Conducted a nationwide online readiness survey for LGUs, and successfully tested an enhanced eBPLS software in coordination with the Development Bank of the Philippines and Landbank.;
 - Held training and capability-building events for LGUs;

- eBPLS is a cloud-based application that LGUs can use to automate their business permitting process from application, to payment, to release of permits;
- c. ICT-based Solutions to Mitigate Traffic Congestions Nationwide
 - Hosted the first ICT Summit on Implementing ICT-based Solutions to Mitigate Traffic Congestion Nationwide in November 2016. It was attended by representatives from national government agencies, local government units, technology experts and other stakeholders;
- d. United Nations-International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Asean Workshop on Child Online Protection
 - Hosted the event in September 2016 to serve as a platform for Asean member-states to share experiences, strengthen capability, and raise awareness of child online safety. Some 150 participants spanning eight countries and multiple industries attended the event;
- e. I-City Summit
 - Seeks to highlight strategies to create infrastructure for intelligent cities. Launched a White Paper outlining the commitment of public and private organizations for a safer and better-connected country;
- f. Asean ICT Masterplan 2020 Awareness Drive
 - Three events on the masterplan are scheduled this year. The first was held on April 26, 2017 in Cebu City. The masterplan outlines strategies on how Asean can develop a secure, sustainable and transformative digital-enabled economy.

Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

RA 10642

An Act Strengthening Consumer Protection in the Purchase of Brand New Motor Vehicles

S. No. 2211, H. No. 4082

Approved on July 15, 2014

Known as the “Philippine Lemon Law”, this law allows buyers of new motor vehicles to report any “nonconformity” within 12 months or the first 20,000 km (whichever comes first) after the date of the original deliver of the vehicle. Nonconformity is defined as “any defect or condition that substantially impairs the use, value or safety of a brand new motor vehicle”, preventing it from conforming to the standards or specifications of the manufacturer or distributor.

Update

Undersecretary Teodoro C. Pascua of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Consumer Protection Group noted that since the passage of this law, the agency only received “six or seven” cases, showing that this law does not appear to be a popular legal recourse for disgruntled buyers. “The process only becomes sort of a duplication, and to a degree, takes longer to resolve because it requires at least four or five test repairs. In existing laws, there are only three routes: replace, repair or refund. Why go through a long process?” he noted. The agency is currently reviewing this law to identify provisions that may need to be amended (Source: BusinessMirror⁴).

RA 10644

An Act Promoting Job Generation and Inclusive Growth through the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

S. No. 2046, H. No. 4595

Approved on July 15, 2014

Known as the “Go Negosyo Act”, this law mandates the establishment of Negosyo Centers across the country, under the supervision of a reconstituted Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Council. These centers shall be responsible for promoting ease of doing business and facilitating access to services for MSMEs within its jurisdiction, including business registration, technology transfer, and training. The MSMED Council through the regional offices of the Department of

⁴ <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/government-considering-repeal-or-revision-of-lemon-law/>

Trade and Industry (DTI) shall perform oversight functions and shall assign personnel to fulfill the functions of the Negosyo Centers.

Other key provisions of this law include:

- Establishing a Philippine Business Registry Databank to serve as a repository of information of all business enterprises in the Philippines; and
- Establishing a Start-up Fund for MSMEs to be sourced from the MSME Development Fund and BMBE Fund to provide financing for the development and promotion of MSMEs in priority sectors of the economy as specified in the MSMED Plan.

Update

As of November 2016, 372 Negosyo Centers have been established nationwide, of which 96 are in cities (or 66% of all cities) and 249 in municipalities (or 17% of all municipalities). 282 Centers are LGU-run, while 146 are located in DTI national, provincial and local offices. Meanwhile, there are 11 Negosyo Centers managed by the academe, three in malls, and three were set up in partnership with local organizations.

As of October 2016, 466,184 clients were assisted by Negosyo Centers. Of these, 60% were existing businesses, 8% were newly created, while 32% were potential entrepreneurs. On average, Negosyo Centers cater to some 47,000 clients a month.

The following initiatives were launched to further enhance the services offered by Negosyo Centers:

- Initiated partnerships with private companies and organizations, including Edukasyon.ph, MyLegalWhiz, and Customer Frontline Services to improve service delivery;
- Developed courses and other capacity-building resources for business counselors deployed in Negosyo Centers (Source: Negosyo Center Program Management Unit).

In 2015, DTI Undersecretary Zenaida Cuison-Maglaya reported to the Senate that the IRR of this law was issued on December 19, 2014 as Department Administrative Order No. 14-5, and was published in the Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin and the Philippine Daily Inquirer on December 29, 2014.

RA 10667

An Act Providing for a National Competition Policy Prohibiting Anti-Competitive Agreements, Abuse of Dominant Position and Anti-Competitive Mergers and Acquisitions, Establishing the Philippine Competition Commission and Appropriating Funds Therefor

S. No. 2282/H. No. 5286

Approved on July 21, 2015

Known as the Philippine Competition Act, this law establishes the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), an independent quasi-judicial body tasked with conducting inquiry, investigating, and hearing and deciding on cases involving any violation of existing competition laws. PCC is mandated to review proposed mergers and acquisitions; apply remedies against anti-competitive agreements; conduct administrative proceedings; and impose sanctions, fines or penalties for any noncompliance, among others. This law also defines prohibited acts classified under (a) anti-competitive agreements and (b) abuse of dominant position, and outlines guidelines with respect to mergers and acquisitions, and disposition of cases.

Update

In 2016, PCC reported to the Senate that the IRR became effective on June 16, 2016 following a series of nationwide consultations with the business community and other sectors. Since the effectivity of the IRR, the PCC has released its prescribed M&A notification form and is currently working on formulating supplementary issuances and guidelines to assist in interpreting the provisions of this law. The agency also held a comprehensive review of the country's competition policy landscape for the formulation of the National Competition Policy, which was integrated into the Philippine Development Plan of the current administration.

As of August 31, 2016, the PCC claims to have reviewed and acted upon 65 M&A notifications.

PCC identified three (3) key challenges in carrying out its mandate:

1. Mergers and acquisitions and competition enforcement:

- The current legal challenge brought forth by PLDT and SMART tests PCC's mandatory obligation under this law to review mergers and acquisitions. Nevertheless, the agency continues to set procedures for investigation, while considering a number of matters spanning a diverse set of sectors, including power, cement and rice.

2. Manpower and resources

- By 2017, PCC hopes to hire about 200 “top-caliber” personnel from the approximately 22 permanent staff as of August 2016. The PCC is considering engaging with external counsels to help it face future legal challenges, which are expected as the agency fulfills its mandate. PCC noted that Congress “may take interest in providing such flexibility to PCC”.

3. Public awareness and advocacy

- PCC seeks to communicate the following:
 - How the law impacts the conduct of business;
 - What people need to do to comply with the law; and
 - How the PCC can help protect the interests of consumers and the public through the full implementation of this law.

RA 10693

An Act Strengthening Nongovernment Organizations Engaged in Microfinance Operations for the Poor

S. No. 2752, H. No. 5217

Approved on November 3, 2015

The “Microfinance NGOs Act” establishes a Microfinance NGO Regulatory Council under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) tasked with accrediting microfinance NGOs eligible to avail of incentives.

Update

The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Regulation (RR) No. 3-2017 on February 24, 2017 implementing the tax provisions of this law. It was published in the Manila Bulletin on February 27, 2017.

This RR complements the IRR of this law, which was approved on August 16, 2016. “By providing financial assistance to small entrepreneurs who would otherwise be turned away by financial institutions because of their perceived “unbankability,” the Duterte presidency would partly realize its electoral mandate of dispersing wealth and making growth inclusive,” Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said during the IRR’s signing ceremony in Manila (Source: Department of Finance).

RA 10744

An Act Providing for the Creation and Organization of Credit Surety Fund Cooperatives to Manage and Administer Credit Surety Funds to Enhance the Accessibility of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Cooperatives and Nongovernment Organizations to the Credit Facility of Banks and Other Purposes

S. No. 2909, H. No. 6007

Approved on February 6, 2016

This law creates the Credit Surety Fund (CSF), which is generated from the contributions of well-capitalized and well-managed member-cooperatives/NGOs, LGUs, GFIs and other institutions/government agencies. It is designed to serve as security for the loans that will be obtained by qualified borrowers from lending banks by way of a surety cover issued by the Board of Directors of the CSF Cooperative. Hence, the surety cover is issued in lieu of hard collaterals.

The CSF Cooperative shall be organized as an LGU-partnered cooperative and may be established in a province or city.

Update

Executive Director Ray R. Elevazo of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) reported to the Senate that the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) recommended some changes to the draft IRR on May 12, 2017. The CDA Board, for its part, offered no objections to the proposed revisions. However, the date of promulgation of the IRR is still pending.

Mr. Elevazo noted that the lack of budget “continues to be a growing concern for the CDA and is seen to be a huge hindrance in the implementation of the law and its IRR”. The creation of the CSF department is expected to put additional pressure on the agency’s finances. “It bears emphasis that under the law a CSF department will be created within CDA. The CDA would like to stress that its present limited budget inevitably keeps it from effectively fulfilling its mandate under the CSF Cooperative Law. Hence, it would be highly absurd to require the CDA to implement this law without the appropriate budget”.

Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

RA 10884

An Act Strengthening the Balanced Housing Development Program, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7279, As Amended, Otherwise Known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992

S. No. 2947, H. No. 4116

Approved on July 17, 2016

This law requires owners and/or developers of proposed (non-socialized) subdivision and condominium projects to develop an area for socialized housing equivalent to at least 15% of the total subdivision area or total subdivision project cost and at least 5% of condominium area or project cost. Meanwhile, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall determine and set separate socialized housing price ceilings for socialized subdivision and socialized condominium projects, which shall be reviewed or revised every two years. This law also provides incentives to private sector developers of socialized housing.

This law defines “socialized housing” as housing programs and projects for the underprivileged and homeless, including sites and services development, long-term financing, liberalized terms on interest payments, and such benefits.

Update

Atty. Lloyd Christopher A. Lao, Chief Executive Officer of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), informed the Senate that the IRR was approved by the HLURB Board of Commissioners on May 3, 2017 through Board Resolution No. 946-2017.

Ways and Means

RA 10754

An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons and Disability

H. No. 1039, S. No. 2890

Approved on March 23, 2016

This law grants additional benefits to persons with disability (PWDs), including exemption from value-added tax (VAT) on the purchase of certain goods and services. This is on top of the 20% discount already enjoyed by PWDs. Meanwhile, those caring for and living with qualified PWD can claim an additional tax exemption of P25,000 against their annual income tax. This applies to family members up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.

Update

The IRR was approved on December 1, 2016. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Finance (DOF), and the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) were the key players in the drafting of the document.

In a speech during the ceremonial signing of the IRR, DSWD Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo said that the committee “conducted several discussions and consultations with individuals, groups and organizations of persons with disability and we have learned a lot from them. These learnings translated to the formulation of the IRR. This is a step forward, but it is not our end goal. The signing of the law is just the start of our task and it is very crucial that we continue consulting with members of the PWD sector and their organizations. We have to ensure that the steps we undertake on their behalf actually respond to their needs and reflect their sentiments when it comes to policies. In the process, we make them our partners in the crafting of laws that aim to serve their interest and the greater good” (Source: Philippine Information Agency).

RA 10863

An Act Modernizing the Customs and Tariff Administration

S. No. 2968, H. No. 5525

Approved on May 30, 2016

This law takes into consideration the mandatory standards of the Revised Kyoto Convention and other international agreements, as well as best practices in customs administration. It raises the tax exemption ceiling of balikbayan boxes to PhP 150,000 from PhP 10,000, and raises the *de minimis* value to PhP 10,000 from PhP 10. It also paves the way for the implementation of reforms to streamline processes in the Bureau of Customs (BoC).

Update

The IRR of this law is still being drafted. The Department of Finance (DOF) has scheduled a series of consultations to gather the views of stakeholders on the law. The agency is also inviting interested parties to submit position papers on policies covered by the IRR.

Youth

RA 10679

An Act Promoting Entrepreneurship and Financial Education Among Filipino Youth

S. No. 2212, H. No. 5603

Approved on August 27, 2015

Known as the “Youth Entrepreneurship Act”, this law seeks to integrate youth entrepreneurship and financial literacy in all levels of education nationwide. It creates the Entrepreneurship Education Committee (EEC) chaired by the Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary or a representative to formulate policies, set and enforce standards, and offer assistance and training. It also establishes financing mechanisms to support both teachers and entrepreneurs.

Update

DepEd issued Memorandum Order No. 110-2017 in June 2017 creating a technical working group (TWG) on financial literacy program in basic education. The TWG seeks to address provisions in RA 10679, RA 10533, and Executive Order No. 208 on financial literacy. Chaired by by Usec. Dina Ocampo, the TWG is responsible for:

- Formulating the policy guidelines on implementing and institutionalizing a financial literacy program;
- Establishing delivery mechanisms and support to the implementation of a financial literacy program; and
- Collaborating with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and other financial institutions in the delivery and implementation of the program.

