



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6579

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES SANTOS-RECTO, BOLILIA, SY-ALVARADO, BIRON, YAP (A.), TAMBUNTING, RODRIGUEZ (M.), CASTELO, BELARO, VILLARICA, ZUBIRI, TUGNA, BELMONTE (R.), PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, VILLAFUERTE, CHIPECO, ALVAREZ (P.), FARIÑAS, SUAREZ, ROMUALDO, SILVERIO, VERGARA, GOMEZ, TREÑAS, ALVAREZ (F.), RELAMPAGOS, BELMONTE (J.C.), LIMKAICHONG, ACOSTA-ALBA, GO (M.), SAVELLANO, LOPEZ (C.), UY (J.), GARCIA (J.E.), ABAYA, CANAMA, EVARDONE, JAVIER, CAGAS, JALOSJOS, MONTORO, ROMUALDEZ, RODRIGUEZ (I.), DURANO, ONG (H.), SAGARBARRIA, LAOGAN, DUAVIT, DIMAPORO (A.), MARCOLETA, TUPAS, MENDOZA, ARCILLAS, CHAVEZ, EUSEBIO, NOGRALES (K.A.), BIAZON, GARIN (O.), LANETE, LOBREGAT, SANDOVAL AND MACEDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 436

---

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1  
2  
3  
4

ARTICLE I

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Ease of Doing Business Act”.

1           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the  
2 indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private  
3 enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments.  
4 Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

5           (a) Provide a business environment that is conducive for the  
6 establishment and operation of businesses in the country;

7           (b) Simplify permit and licensing system procedures and  
8 streamline the requirements at the national and local levels;

9           (c) Promote transparency in government with regard to  
10 business registration and other manner of public transactions, to  
11 reduce red tape and expedite permitting, licensing, and other  
12 similar transactions in government; and

13           (d) Ensure timely and expeditious processing of business  
14 requirements by national government agencies and local  
15 government units (LGUs).

16           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

17           (a) *Applicant* refers to any natural person or juridical entity  
18 set to engage or is engaged in business and who is applying for a  
19 license, clearance, or permit;

20           (b) *Business entity* refers to any individual or juridical entity  
21 engaged in business in the Philippines;

22           (c) *Business One-Stop Shop* refers to a single common site or  
23 location designated for the Business Permit and Licensing System  
24 (BPLS) of an LGU to receive and process applications, receive  
25 payments, and issue approved licenses, clearances, or permits;

26           (d) *Business permit* refers to a document issued by the Office  
27 of the Local Chief Executive of a city or municipality to a business

1 entity, allowing it to operate in the locality within a prescribed  
2 period;

3 (e) *Business registration* refers to a set of regulatory  
4 requirements that a startup or business entity must comply with to  
5 engage in business, such as documentation or the collection or  
6 preparation of requisite papers, their submission to government  
7 authorities, approval of the application submitted, and receipt of a  
8 formal certificate or certificates, licenses, clearances, permits, and  
9 similar documents which confirm the eligibility to operate as a  
10 legitimate business entity;

11 (f) *Central Business Portal (CBP)* refers to a dedicated  
12 business web portal that allows startups and business entities to  
13 access a one-stop or single-entry point to submit applications and  
14 business registration-related information and obtain copies of  
15 approved licenses, clearances, or permits;

16 (g) *Charges* refer to pecuniary liabilities, as rents or fees  
17 against persons or property;

18 (h) *Clearance* refers to a document in a form of a certificate  
19 issued by a government agency or instrumentality to a business  
20 entity, which is a requisite for their business operations or  
21 transactions as required by law;

22 (i) *Complex application* refers to an application which  
23 necessitates interagency collaboration or multi-department  
24 involvement in the resolution of complicated issues by a business  
25 licensing, regulatory, or permitting office as required by law;

26 (j) *Fee* refers to a reasonable charge fixed by law or local  
27 ordinance for the regulation or inspection of a business or activity;

1           (k) *License* refers to a permit or document issued by national  
2 government agencies and LGUs necessary for starting and pursuing  
3 a business, such as primary license or secondary license;

4           (l) *Other permits and clearances* refer to an authority to do or  
5 perform certain acts granted by national government agencies or  
6 LGUs such as environmental clearances and building, excavation,  
7 occupancy, and sanitary permits;

8           (m) *Primary license* refers to an initial issuance, authority, or  
9 certificate issued by a government agency or instrumentality that  
10 grants juridical personality to a business entity and serves as  
11 evidence of its registration;

12           (n) *Processing time* refers to the time spent by an applicant  
13 from the submission of an application with complete requirements,  
14 accompanying documents, and payment of fees to the receipt of a  
15 certification or such similar documents approving or disapproving  
16 the application for a license, clearance, or permit;

17           (o) *Red tape* refers to any regulation, rule, or administrative  
18 procedure or system that is ineffective or detrimental in achieving  
19 its intended objectives and, as a result, produces slow, suboptimal,  
20 and undesirable social outcomes;

21           (p) *Regulation* refers to any legal instrument that gives effect  
22 to a government policy intervention, including licensing, imposition  
23 of information obligations, compliance to standards, or payment of  
24 any form of fee, levy, charge, or any other statutory and regulatory  
25 requirement necessary to carry out any business activity;

26           (q) *Secondary license* refers to a certification, authority, or  
27 accreditation issued to a registered business entity which authorizes

1 the entity to engage in certain business activities as required by  
2 regulatory laws;

3 (r) *Simple application* refers to an application which only  
4 requires ministerial action on the part of the licensing or permitting  
5 office or which presents only routine issues for resolution by the  
6 concerned office; and

7 (s) *Technical application* refers to an application which  
8 requires the use of technical knowledge, specialized skills, and/or  
9 training in the processing or evaluation thereof.

10 SEC. 4. *Coverage*. – Other laws notwithstanding, this Act  
11 shall apply to all national government agencies or instrumentalities  
12 and LGUs involved in the issuance of licenses, clearances, or  
13 permits to business entities.

## 14 ARTICLE II

### 15 BUSINESS PERMITTING AND LICENSING REFORMS

16 SEC. 5. *Requirements for License, Clearance, or Permit*  
17 *Application*. – All national government agencies and LGUs issuing  
18 licenses, clearances, or permits to business entities shall post a  
19 comprehensive checklist of requirements for every type of license,  
20 clearance, or permit to be issued. A uniform checklist of  
21 requirements required by licensing and permitting offices issuing a  
22 similar license, clearance, or permit shall be established when  
23 applicable.

24 The checklist of requirements, step-by-step procedure, and  
25 schedule of fees for the issuance of a license, clearance, or permit  
26 shall be conspicuously posted in, among others, the premises of  
27 national and local government licensing and permitting agencies,

1 the Business One-Stop Shop, or in designated public places, in  
2 accordance with the Citizens Charter of the agencies concerned. The  
3 same information shall likewise be posted online in the official  
4 websites of national government agencies and LGUs and shall be  
5 linked to the CBP.

6 Business entities shall be limited to submitting only the  
7 requirements provided in the checklist in the processing of an  
8 application.

9 SEC. 6. *Prescribed Processing Time for License, Clearance, or*  
10 *Permit Applications.* – National government agencies and LGUs  
11 involved in the processing and issuance of licenses, clearances, or  
12 permits to business entities shall process the application of such  
13 business entities and communicate the decision regarding the  
14 approval of the application or, if the application has been  
15 disapproved, with the reasons for such disapproval, within the  
16 prescribed processing time.

17 The prescribed processing time shall in no case be longer than:  
18 (a) one (1) working day for barangay governments; (b) three (3)  
19 working days for national government agencies and LGUs for  
20 simple applications; and (c) ten (10) working days for national  
21 government agencies and LGUs, in case of complex applications,  
22 from the time of receipt of the application.

23 For special types of businesses that require clearances,  
24 accreditation, or licenses issued by government agencies, including  
25 regulatory agencies as provided for by law, where technical  
26 evaluation or such necessary condition is required in the processing  
27 of licenses, clearances, or permits, the prescribed processing time

1 shall in no case be longer than thirty (30) working days or as  
2 determined by the government agency or instrumentality  
3 concerned, whichever is shorter: *Provided*, That where the  
4 prescribed processing time is fixed by special laws, the time  
5 prescribed by such laws shall apply.

6 A national government agency or LGU shall assign a unique  
7 identification number to an applicant that shall become the  
8 identifying number for all subsequent business registration-related  
9 transactions between the agency and the business entity. A  
10 reference number for each business registration-related  
11 transaction shall also be provided to the applicant to track the  
12 status of an application, whether manually or electronically  
13 submitted.

14 *SEC. 7. Automatic Approval of License, Clearance, or Permit*  
15 *Applications.* – An application for a license, clearance, or permit  
16 shall be deemed approved upon failure or inaction of the concerned  
17 national government agency or LGU to process and issue the  
18 license, clearance, or permit after the prescribed processing time  
19 has lapsed without informing the applicant of the errors or  
20 omissions in the application or of the additional documents required  
21 for submission: *Provided*, That all required documents have been  
22 submitted and all required fees and charges have been paid. In  
23 such case, an assessment of fees shall be automatically issued and,  
24 once paid, the license, clearance, or permit shall be issued  
25 automatically.

26 In cases where the cause of delay is due to *force majeure* or  
27 natural or man-made disasters, which result to damage or

1 destruction of documents, the prescribed processing times mandated  
2 in this Act shall be suspended and appropriate adjustments shall be  
3 made.

4 If an application for license, clearance, or permit shall require  
5 the approval of the sangguniang bayan, in the case of a  
6 municipality; the sangguniang panlungsod, in the case of a city; or  
7 the sangguniang panlalawigan, in the case of a province; and the  
8 respective sanggunian has denied the application, the same shall be  
9 exempt from the operation of Sections 6 and 7 of this Act.

10 In case of denial of the application, the reason for the denial,  
11 as well as the remedial measures that may be taken by the  
12 applicant, shall be cited by the concerned national government  
13 agency or LGU.

14 SEC. 8. *Requirements for Business Permit Applications.* – A  
15 single or unified business application form shall be used in  
16 processing new applications for business permits and renewals  
17 thereof which consolidates all the items required of the applicant by  
18 various local government departments, such as the local taxes and  
19 clearances, building clearance, sanitary permit, zoning clearance,  
20 and other LGU requirements, including the fire clearance from the  
21 Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

22 The unified form shall be made available online using  
23 technology-neutral platforms, such as the CBP or the city or  
24 municipal government's website and various channels for  
25 dissemination.



1           SEC. 9. *Validity of Business Permits.* – Business permits  
2 shall be valid for a period not shorter than one (1) year from the  
3 date of issuance.

4           SEC. 10. *Computerized or Software-enabled Business Permit*  
5 *and Licensing System (BPLS).* – Within one (1) year from the  
6 effectivity of this Act, city and municipal governments shall, as far  
7 as practicable, automate their BPLS or set up an electronic-  
8 Business One-Stop Shop for a more efficient business registration.

9           The Department of Information and Communications  
10 Technology (DICT) shall make available to qualified LGUs the  
11 software for the computerization of the BPLS. The DICT, the  
12 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the  
13 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall provide technical  
14 assistance in the planning and implementation of a computerized or  
15 software-enabled BPLS.

16           SEC. 11. *Business One-Stop Shop.* – A one-stop business  
17 facilitation service, hereinafter referred to as the Business One-Stop  
18 Shop (BOSS), shall be established for city or municipal BPLS to  
19 receive and process manual or electronic submission of license,  
20 clearance, or permit applications.

21           City and municipal governments without electronic  
22 mechanisms for submission and processing of license, clearance, or  
23 permit applications shall set up a BOSS. There shall be a queuing  
24 mechanism in the BOSS to better manage the flow of applications  
25 among the local government departments receiving and processing  
26 applications, including the BFP.

1 City and municipal governments with online mechanisms for  
2 submission and processing of license, clearance, or permit  
3 applications shall receive and process applications electronically.  
4 Downloadable and unified application forms, comprehensive  
5 checklist of requirements, step-by-step procedures, and schedule of  
6 fees shall be made available online in the city or municipal  
7 governments' websites.

8 To lessen the transaction requirements, other local clearances  
9 such as sanitary permits and environmental and agricultural  
10 clearances shall be issued together with the business permit:  
11 *Provided*, That city or municipal governments that use manual  
12 signatures shall designate alternative signatories in the absence of  
13 the authorized approving authority: *Provided, further*, That city or  
14 municipal governments with an electronic BOSS shall develop  
15 electronic versions of approved licenses, clearances, or permits,  
16 which may be printed by business entities in the convenience of  
17 their offices.

18 SEC. 12. *Streamlined Procedures for Securing Fire Safety*  
19 *Clearance.* - The following procedures shall be adopted for the  
20 issuance of the Fire Safety Inspection Certificate (FSIC), to make  
21 business permitting more efficient:

22 (a) Issuance of an FSIC shall be within thirty (30) working  
23 days;

24 (b) For a new business permit application, the FSIC already  
25 issued during the occupancy permit stage shall be sufficient as basis  
26 for the issuance of the FSIC for a business entity as a requirement  
27 for the business permit;

1 (c) For the renewal of business permit, the BFP shall present  
2 the FSIC to the city or municipal government, either thru the copy  
3 of the FSIC or the negative or positive list: *Provided*, That the  
4 business entity shall inform and submit to the BFP the necessary  
5 documentary requirements if renovations, modifications or any form  
6 of alterations are made to the original building structure thirty (30)  
7 days before the expiration of the business permit;

8 (d) If the BFP fails to furnish the city or municipal  
9 government with the FSIC or inform the same through the negative  
10 or positive list, the business entity shall be deemed to have a valid  
11 FSIC and, therefore, the basis for the renewal of the business  
12 permit;

13 (e) The BFP or any of its officials or employees shall not sell,  
14 offer to sell, or recommend specific brands or distributors or  
15 retailers of fire extinguishers and other fire safety equipment, or  
16 insist that the distributor or retailer be from the same city or  
17 municipality;

18 (f) The BFP shall collocate with the BOSS or in an  
19 appropriate area designated by the city or municipal government  
20 within its premises to assess and collect the fire safety inspection  
21 fees;

22 (g) The BFP may enter into agreements with city and  
23 municipal governments allowing the latter to be deputized as  
24 assessors or collecting agents for the fire safety inspection fees; and

25 (h) The BFP may develop and adopt an online or electronic  
26 mechanism in assessing fees, collecting and accepting payments,

1 and sharing or exchange of other relevant data on business permit  
2 processing.

3 For this purpose, the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No.  
4 9514, otherwise known as the "Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008",  
5 are hereby amended accordingly.

6 SEC. 13. *Central Business Portal (CBP)*. – To promote  
7 transparency and sustain ease in doing business, the DICT shall be  
8 primarily responsible for establishing, operating, and maintaining,  
9 throughout the entire government, a cloud-native CBP or other  
10 similar technology as the DICT may prescribe, which shall serve as  
11 a central system to receive applications and capture application  
12 data from business entities.

13 The CBP shall securely connect government agencies, such as  
14 the DTI, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the  
15 Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), regulatory agencies,  
16 and LGUs to receive base or common applicant data or information  
17 required for each agency to process applications, respectively, and  
18 through which each respective agency shall securely generate and  
19 issue digitally-signed licenses and other pertinent documents.

20 SEC. 14. *Philippine Business Registry Databank (PBRD)*. –  
21 Agencies that issue business licenses or permits such as the DTI,  
22 SEC, CDA, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and LGUs shall  
23 access the PBRD to verify the validity and existence of and other  
24 information relevant to a business entity.

25 The concerned national government agencies and LGUs shall  
26 periodically submit to the PBRD system updates relative to the  
27 information registered with them. The DICT, in consultation with

1 the concerned agencies, shall develop and manage the PBRD and  
2 prescribe the data to be submitted by national government agencies  
3 and LGUs.

4 Submission of documents already provided by an applicant to  
5 an agency with access to the PBRD shall no longer be required by  
6 other agencies having similar access. The concerned agency shall  
7 cross-check and retrieve the required information or document in  
8 the PBRD.

9 The city or municipal Business Permits and Licensing Office  
10 (BPLO) shall not require the same documents already provided by  
11 the applicant to other local government departments in connection  
12 with other business-related licenses, clearances, or permits such as  
13 the tax clearance, occupancy permit, and barangay clearance.

14 SEC. 15. *Single Payment Platform (SPP)*. – The DICT shall  
15 also be responsible for establishing, operating, and maintaining an  
16 SPP through which payments to national government agencies or  
17 LGUs may be made and which shall utilize the appropriate  
18 technology the DICT deems fit.

19 SEC. 16. *Information Technology Redundancy Policy*. – As  
20 certified by the DICT that a particular information technology  
21 effort, plan, program, or project is pertinent to the promotion of ease  
22 of doing business, the implementing national government agencies  
23 or LGUs shall be allowed to have redundant information technology  
24 systems, programs, networks, and connections to ensure the  
25 stability, security, and speed of its information technology  
26 dependent services related to ensuring ease of doing business.



1 which shall refer to a comprehensive business registration and  
2 regulatory management policy to improve competitiveness and ease  
3 undue bureaucratic and regulatory burden to business entities.

4       SEC. 20. *Ease of Doing Business Commission.* – Within  
5 sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, there shall be created  
6 the Ease of Doing Business Commission, herein referred to as the  
7 Commission, to ensure the attainment of the objectives of this Act.  
8 The Commission shall be the policy-making body on business  
9 registration and regulatory management and shall set the overall  
10 direction for the implementation of the National Policy on Ease of  
11 Doing Business.

12       The Commission shall be the lead agency in the  
13 implementation of this Act and it shall be an attached agency to the  
14 Office of the President.

15       SEC. 21. *Powers and Functions.* – The Commission shall  
16 have the following powers and functions:

17       (a) Plan, implement, and oversee a national policy on ease of  
18 doing business;

19       (b) Receive complaints and institute investigations for  
20 violations of this Act;

21       (c) Assist complainants in filing necessary cases without  
22 prejudice to the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission (CSC)  
23 and the Office of the Ombudsman, as the case may be;

24       (d) Facilitate the issuance of licenses, clearances, or permits  
25 deemed approved by virtue of Section 7 of this Act;

1 (e) Compel or petition any national government agency or  
2 LGU to issue the license, clearance, or permit of business entities  
3 deemed approved by virtue of Section 7 of this Act;

4 (f) Periodically review and assess the country's  
5 competitiveness performance, challenges, and issues;

6 (g) Recommend policies, processes, and systems to improve  
7 regulatory management to increase the productivity, efficiency, and  
8 effectiveness of permitting and licensing agencies;

9 (h) Conduct regulatory management training programs to  
10 capacitate national government agencies and LGUs to comply with  
11 sound regulatory management practices;

12 (i) Prepare regulatory management manuals for all  
13 government agencies or instrumentalities and LGUs;

14 (j) Provide technical assistance and advisory opinions in the  
15 review of proposed national or local legislation, regulations, or  
16 procedures;

17 (k) Ensure the dissemination of and public access to  
18 information on regulatory management system and changes in laws  
19 and regulations relevant to the public by establishing the Philippine  
20 Business Regulations Information System;

21 (l) Enlist the technical assistance of other national  
22 government agencies in the implementation of the powers and  
23 functions provided for in this Act;

24 (m) Propose legislation, amendments, or modifications to  
25 Philippine laws related to ease of doing business;



1           (n) Monitor and review the implementation of this Act  
2 including compliance of all concerned national government agencies  
3 and LGUs with the policies set herein;

4           (o) Formulate and amend when necessary the implementing  
5 rules and regulations of this Act and the corresponding standards  
6 for good regulatory discipline; and

7           (p) Generally perform such acts as may be necessary to attain  
8 the objectives of this Act.

9           SEC. 22. *Composition of the Commission.* – The Commission  
10 shall be composed of a Chairperson, the Secretary of Trade and  
11 Industry and the Secretary of Finance as *ex officio* members, and  
12 one (1) private sector representative each for the micro, small, and  
13 medium enterprise sector and for the large industry sector.

14           The private sector representatives, who shall be appointed by  
15 the President, shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines, of  
16 good moral character, of recognized probity and independence, and  
17 must have distinguished themselves in the business sector they  
18 represent.

19           The *ex officio* members of the Commission may designate their  
20 respective alternates who shall be at least an Undersecretary in  
21 rank, and their acts shall be considered the acts of their principals.

22           SEC. 23. *Term of Office.* – The term of office of the  
23 Chairperson and the two (2) private sector representatives shall be  
24 three (3) years. They may be reappointed to the same position only  
25 once.

26           SEC. 24. *Chairperson of the Commission.* – The President of  
27 the Philippines shall appoint the Chairperson of the Commission

1 who, as the head of the agency, shall enjoy the rank of Cabinet  
2 Secretary. The Chairperson shall be a citizen and resident of the  
3 Philippines, of good moral character, of recognized probity and  
4 independence, and must have distinguished one's self professionally  
5 in the fields of commerce, domestic and international trade,  
6 management, or other economic disciplines. The Chairperson shall  
7 preside over the meetings of the Commission and shall have the  
8 power to appoint the other officials and employees of the  
9 Commission, as provided for in existing laws, rules and regulations.

10       SEC. 25. *Secretariat of the Commission.* – The Commission  
11 shall establish a Secretariat to assist it in the implementation of  
12 this Act and in the performance of its duties.

13       The Commission shall establish an organizational structure,  
14 including regional offices, as may be required to effectively carry out  
15 its powers and functions. The staffing pattern and compensation  
16 schedule of the Commission shall be drawn up in accordance with  
17 existing laws, rules and regulations.

18       SEC. 26. *Executive Director.* – The Secretariat of the  
19 Commission shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be  
20 appointed by the Commission. The Executive Director shall serve  
21 for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed only once. The  
22 Executive Director shall be a citizen and resident of the Philippines  
23 and must possess executive and management experience of at least  
24 three (3) years and with considerable exposure in the fields of  
25 commerce, domestic and international trade, and other economic  
26 disciplines.

## ARTICLE IV

## RECOGNITION, AWARDS, AND INCENTIVES

1  
2  
3       SEC. 27. *Recognition, Awards, and Incentives.* - A  
4 recognition, awards, and incentives system shall be created and  
5 implemented for national government agencies, LGUs, and their  
6 officials and employees who have demonstrated exemplary service  
7 and conduct in the pursuit and promotion of ease of doing business  
8 and the implementation of this Act.

## ARTICLE V

## PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

9  
10       SEC. 28. *Prohibited Acts.* - The following acts shall  
11 constitute violations of this Act:  
12

13       (a) Refusal to accept an application within the prescribed  
14 period or any document being submitted by the applicant: *Provided,*  
15 That all required documents have been submitted and the necessary  
16 fees have been paid;

17       (b) Failure to refer back to the applicant an application which  
18 cannot be acted upon due to lack or incomplete requirements or  
19 nonpayment of required fees or charges within the prescribed  
20 period;

21       (c) Failure to act on an application despite the complete  
22 submission of requirements and payment of required fees or charges  
23 within the prescribed period;

24       (d) Failure to give the applicant a written notice on the  
25 disapproval of an application within the prescribed period or inform  
26 the applicant of any error, omission, or deficiency in the application;  
27 and

1 (c) Imposition of additional irrelevant requirements other  
2 than those provided by the concerned agency or LGU.

3 SEC. 29. *Penalties.* – Penalties for the violations of the  
4 preceding section shall be as follows:

5 (a) First offense – Thirty (30) days suspension without pay;

6 (b) Second offense – Three (3) months suspension without  
7 pay; and

8 (c) Third offense – Dismissal and perpetual disqualification to  
9 hold public office, cancellation of civil service eligibility, and  
10 forfeiture of retirement benefits.

11 The penalties provided herein are without prejudice to  
12 prosecution for acts that amount to felonies and other criminal  
13 offenses. In such case, the pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal  
14 Code and other applicable penal laws shall apply.

15 SEC. 30. *Liability.* – The head of office or agency or  
16 supervising officer designated to be the authorized or final signatory  
17 to the issuance of a license, clearance, or permit shall be held liable  
18 and accountable in the implementation of this Act.

19 SEC. 31. *Jurisdiction.* – The administrative jurisdiction over  
20 any violation of the provisions of this Act shall be vested in the CSC,  
21 the Office of the Ombudsman, and the heads of concerned  
22 government agencies and LGUs. The criminal jurisdiction over any  
23 violation of this Act shall be vested in the appropriate courts as  
24 specified under applicable laws.

## ARTICLE VI

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1  
2  
3       SEC. 32. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – To oversee  
4 the implementation of this Act, there shall be created a  
5 Congressional Oversight Committee on Ease of Doing Business  
6 (COC-EDB), to be composed of five (5) members from the Senate,  
7 which shall include the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on  
8 Trade and Commerce and Entrepreneurship, Civil Service,  
9 Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, and  
10 Economic Affairs; and five (5) members from the House of  
11 Representatives which shall include the Chairpersons of the House  
12 Committees on Trade and Industry, Civil Service and Professional  
13 Regulation, Government Reorganization, and Economic Affairs. The  
14 COC-EDB shall be jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate  
15 Committee on Trade and Commerce and Entrepreneurship and the  
16 House of Representatives Committee on Trade and Industry.

17       The Secretariat of the COC-EDB shall be drawn from the  
18 existing personnel of the Senate and House of Representatives  
19 committees comprising the COC-EDB.

20       SEC. 33. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry  
21 out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current  
22 year's appropriations of the concerned agencies. Thereafter, such  
23 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
24 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

25       SEC. 34. *Transitory Provision.* – All business regulatory  
26 management programs and business-related anti-red tape  
27 initiatives across government agencies shall be rationalized and the

1 management thereof shall be transferred to the Commission. The  
2 DTI, the National Competitiveness Council (NCC), the Department  
3 of Finance (DOF), the Development Academy of the Philippines  
4 (DAP), and the National Economic and Development Authority  
5 (NEDA) shall submit to the Commission a report of the status of  
6 their respective projects related to business regulatory  
7 management.

8 The Commission, in consultation with the Competitiveness  
9 Bureau of the DTI, shall determine the composition of the  
10 temporary Secretariat of the Commission. The teams or units  
11 involved in regulatory improvement or ease of doing  
12 business-related programs of the DTI-Competitiveness Bureau shall  
13 serve as temporary Secretariat of the Commission until such time  
14 that its organizational structure is determined: *Provided*, That the  
15 DTI-Competitiveness Bureau shall serve as Secretariat to the  
16 Commission for no longer than six (6) months upon the effectivity of  
17 this Act.

18 SEC. 35. *Transition from Manual to Software-Enabled*  
19 *Business Registration.* – Within one (1) year after the effectivity of  
20 this Act, the DICT, in coordination with the members of the  
21 Commission, LGUs and other concerned agencies shall develop the  
22 necessary software and technology-neutral platforms and secured  
23 infrastructure for the implementation of this Act.

24 SEC. 36. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within  
25 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in  
26 consultation with concerned government agencies, private sector,

1 and other stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations to  
2 implement it.

3       SEC. 37. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of  
4 this Act is declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other  
5 provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force  
6 and effect.

7       SEC. 38. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 9514,  
8 otherwise known as the “Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008”, as  
9 well as all laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or  
10 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
11 deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12       SEC. 39. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
13 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper  
14 of general circulation.

Approved,

○