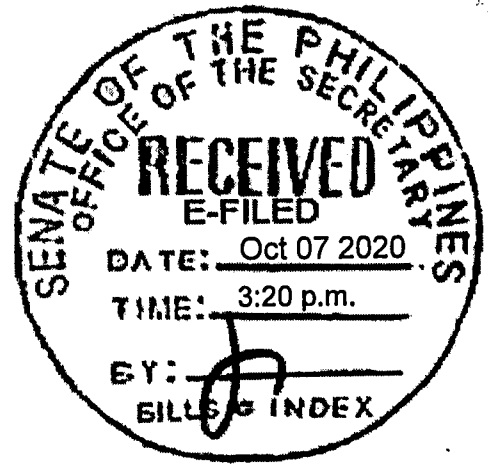


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 130**

Submitted by the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation (upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Ease of Doing Business), jointly with the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship on Oct 07 2020

Re: Senate Bill No. 1844

Recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsor: **Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation (upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Ease of Doing Business), joint with the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 1844**, introduced by Senators Vicente C. Sotto III, Ralph G. Recto, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Franklin M. Drilon and Panfilo M. Lacson, entitled:

**"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, line 14, after the acronym (DOH) and the punctuation mark comma (,), insert the phrase **"PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH),"**.
2. On page 2, line 12 between the words "applications" and "for", insert the phrase **"AND RENEWALS OF"**, and thereafter delete the preposition "for".
3. On the same page, line 16, delete the period (.) after the word "authorizations" and replace the same with a semi-colon (;) and then add the conjunction **"AND"**.

4. On the same page, after line 16, insert a new paragraph, to read as follows:

**"(C) IN CONSULTATION WITH OR UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MAY PRESCRIBE TO BE PERMANENT THE STREAMLINED REGULATORY PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES, AND THE SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECURING PERMITS, LICENSES, CLEARANCES, CERTIFICATIONS OR AUTHORIZATIONS;"**

5. Re-letter the subparagraphs accordingly.
6. On the same page, after the new paragraph (c), insert a new proviso to read as follows:

**"PROVIDED, THAT THE AUTHORITY HEREIN GRANTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPHS (A), (B), AND (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE USED TO UNDERMINE THE EXISTING PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES, UNDER APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, MEANT TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT AIM TO SAFEGUARD PROTECTED AREAS AND ITS BUFFER ZONES, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS."**

7. On the same page, lines 19-20, between the words "remove" and "any", delete the phrase "upon the determination of a competent body" and the punctuation mark comma (,).
8. On the same page, line 29, after the word "Gazette", remove the conjunction "and" and replace it with the word "**OR**".
9. On the Title of the bill, after the word "Certifications", add the phrase "**IN TIMES OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY**".

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

**Chairpersons**



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
Chairperson, Subcommittee on SBN 1844/  
Ease of Doing Business

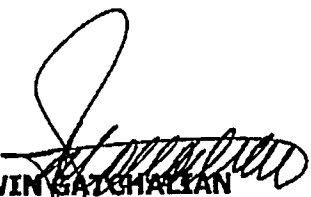


**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**  
Chairperson, Committee on Civil Service,  
Government Reorganization and Professional  
Regulation




**AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**  
Chairperson, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

**Vice Chairpersons**



**WIN SATCHALIAN**  
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Trade,  
Commerce and Entrepreneurship



**JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on Civil Service,  
Government Reorganization and Professional  
Regulation*




**GRACE POE**  
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship


**Members**



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce and  
Entrepreneurship



**CHRISTOPHER BONG GO**  
*Member, Committee on Civil Service,  
Government Reorganization and Professional  
Regulation*



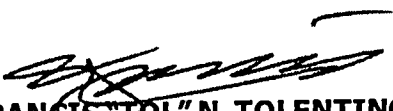
**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
*Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce and  
Entrepreneurship*



**RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
Member, Committee on Civil Service, Government  
Reorganization and Professional Regulation



**SONNY ANGARA**  
Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce  
and Entrepreneurship



**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**  
Member, Committee on Civil Service,  
Government  
Reorganization and Professional Regulation



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship



**PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Member, Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation



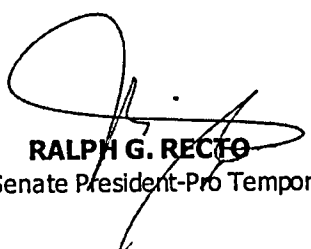
**FRANCIS N. DANGILINAN**  
Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship



**RISA S. HONTIVEROS**  
Member, Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

**LEILA M. DE LIMA**  
Member, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

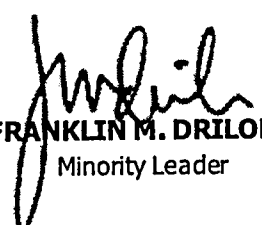
**Ex-Officio Members:**



**RALPH G. RECTO**  
Senate President-Pro Tempore



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
Majority Leader



**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
Minority Leader

**HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
President  
Senate of the Philippines



**SENATE**

20 SEP 22 P3:29

S. B. No. 1844

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senators VICENTE C. SOTTO III, RALPH G. RECTO, JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI, FRANKLIN M. DRILON, and PANFILO M. LACSON

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**AN ACT  
AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND  
ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS AND LICENSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business Report, Philippines jumped 29 notches, ranking 95<sup>th</sup> from 124<sup>th</sup> last year. The Philippines got an Ease of Doing Business score of 62.8 in the 2020 report, an improvement over its grade in the previous year of 57.68. Based on the report, the Philippines improved on three areas: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, and protecting minority investors.<sup>1</sup> Although it was a big leap from the previous year's, the Philippines is still last in the ranking among the founding members of Southeast Asian Nations.

According to some reports in 2019<sup>2</sup>, the Philippines is a top foreign investment destination largely attributable to its continuing digital transformation and combined information and communications technology (ICT) and infrastructure efforts. Furthermore, based on an article published by the Philippine News Agency on December 30, 2019, Philippine economy is still among Asia's fastest amid easing inflation. The Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) accelerated by 6.2 percent in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/dof-confident-of-even-better-doing-business-ranking-for-phl-next-year-amid-msme-reform/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/philippines-a-top-foreign-investment-destination-with-613-surge-in-approved-investments-1028710393#>

the third quarter, making it the second fastest-growing major economy after Vietnam, and ahead of China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Moreover, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Department of Finance, the Philippines entered 2020 with strong growth prospects due to the conservative and responsible fiscal management and tax reform measures, just to name a few factors. The Philippines is even said to be among the fastest growing economies, with a revenue of 16.1% of gross domestic product (GDP), which is the country's highest since 1997.

However, the economic landscape of the Philippines has drastically changed by reason of the pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 to the different sectors of our society are all unprecedented. The Philippine economy is forecast to contract by 7.3% in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Asian Development Bank<sup>3</sup>. While this has been the case, the Department of Finance<sup>4</sup> remained optimistic in saying that the peso has emerged as among Asia's strongest currencies owing to the country's mild inflation rate.

Uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, although have been lessened, still exist. Measures to cushion its effect to our people and our economy have already been made. However, there are still a lot to be accomplished in order to rebuild the economy and defeat COVID-19 altogether.

Thus, this bill seeks to authorize the President, during the time of national emergency, to suspend the requirements for national and local permits, licenses and certifications, and to streamline and expedite the process for the issuance of the same. While this may be a small step, it surely can create a significant impact on all enterprises. Likewise, this move could ease the already heavy burden of the businesses that were heavily hit and continuously being beaten by the gargantuan effects of the pandemic. This Act could be one of the needed breathers of the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adb.org/news/philippine-economy-decline-further-2020-amid-covid-19-recovery-2021>

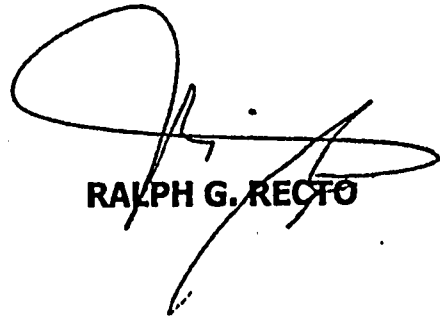
<sup>4</sup> <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/01/strong-peso-shows-confidence-in-ph-dof/>

crumbling enterprises. And ultimately, this will redound to the benefit of our economy and encourage investors to capitalize in the country.

The COVID-19 virus is spreading fast, so our action must likewise be swift. Therefore, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



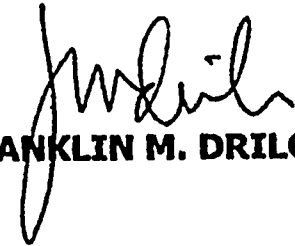
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**



**RALPH G. RECTO**



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**



**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**



**PANFILO M. LACSON**

20 SEP 22 P 3 :29

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Senate Bill No. 1844**

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Introduced by Introduced by Senators VICENTE C. SOTTO III, RALPH G. RECTO,  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI, FRANKLIN M. DRILON, and PANFILO M. LACSON

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**AN ACT**

**AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING AND  
ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERMITS, LICENSES AND  
CERTIFICATIONS**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover all agencies of the Executive  
2 branch, including departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, boards, councils;  
3 government instrumentalities, government owned and controlled corporations such as  
4 but not limited to the following: Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal  
5 Revenue (BIR), Bureau of Customs (BOC); Department of Environment and Natural  
6 Resources (DENR), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Environmental  
7 Management Bureau (EMB), Land Management Bureau; Department of Justice (DOJ),  
8 Land Registration Authority (LRA), Bureau of Immigration (BI); Department of  
9 Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board  
10 (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines  
11 (CAAP), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);  
12 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Commission on  
13 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
14 Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP); Department of Health (DOH), Food and Drug  
15 Administration (FDA); Department of Information and Communications Technology  
16 (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); Department of Agriculture  
17 (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); Department of Energy



1 (DOE); Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC); Department of Labor and Employment  
2 (DOLE); Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Home  
3 Mutual Development Fund (HDMF/PAGIBIG), Human Settlements Adjudication  
4 Commission (HSAC); Social Security System (SSS); Government Service Insurance  
5 System (GSIS); and local government units.

6 **SEC. 2. Authority of the President to Suspend the Requirements for**  
7 **National and Local Permits, Licenses and Certifications, and to Streamline**  
8 **and Expedite the Process for the Issuance thereof.** – Notwithstanding any law,  
9 decree, order or ordinance to the contrary, the President, in times of national  
10 emergency shall have the authority to:

- 11 (a) accelerate and streamline regulatory processes and procedures for new and  
12 pending applications for permits, licenses, clearances, certifications or  
13 authorizations, including fixing or shortening the periods provided for under  
14 existing laws, regulations, issuances, and ordinances;
- 15 (b) suspend or waive the requirements in securing such permits, licenses,  
16 clearances, certifications or authorizations.

17 **SEC. 3. Power to Suspend or Remove** – Consistent with Article VII Sections  
18 1 and 17 of the Constitution, the Revised Administrative Code, other existing laws,  
19 and jurisprudence, the President shall have the authority to suspend or remove, upon  
20 the determination of a competent body, any government official or employee  
21 performing acts contrary to the preceding section.

22 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
23 unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in  
24 full force and effect.

25 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and  
26 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
27 accordingly.

28 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the  
29 Official Gazette and in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*