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## SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING\*

First Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

**S. NO 1240 AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**  
*(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 337, and 524)*

**Authors:** Senators Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Cynthia Villar, Miguel Zubiri, Nancy Binay, Ramon Bong Revilla, Richard Gordon, Franklin Drilon, Joel Villanueva, and Francis Tolentino

**Referred to** Primary Committee: Trade and Commerce  
Secondary Committees: Ways and Means  
Finance

**Key words:** bamboo industry, development, incentives

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This measure aims to make the Philippine bamboo industry competitive in the local and international markets while providing opportunities for local employment and community enterprises. Towards this goal, the bill creates the Bamboo Industry Development Council and the Bamboo Industry Development Center that will serve as the secretariat of the former. It also provides incentives for bamboo planters and plantation owners.

Under the Bill, the Council is tasked to formulate a roadmap for the development of bamboo industry in the country, identification of relevant programs, and sources of financing. The law provides that the Council submit an annual report on the status of implementation of the roadmap to the president of the Philippines, to the Senate and House of Representatives. Moreover, the Council shall be authorized to regulate the export of bamboo poles.

The Council shall be composed of the Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or his/her representative as the chair, and the Secretary of Department Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or his/her representative as the co-chair.

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Members shall be composed of the secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or their respective representatives; and three (3) representatives from the private sector and non-government organizations (NGOs) involved in the cultivation of bamboo and the bamboo industry.

The Bamboo Industry Development Center shall serve as the secretariat of the Council and shall be responsible for the operationalization of the bamboo industry development roadmap. Among other tasks, the Center shall promote the establishment of bamboo nurseries, coordinate with DOST to advance sustainable practices in the bamboo industry, establish processing facilities, promote bamboo farm tourism, commercialization and market access of bamboo products and technologies, and coordinate with other government agencies for the development of the industry. The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall manage the day to day operations of the Center, provide technical and administrative support to the Council, and other duties pursuant to their mandate.

Specific responsibilities of each of the agencies involved in the Council are cited in this measure. Incentives for planters of bamboo are also stated in this bill like exemption from payment for the use of public lands; exemption from payment of forest charges; the use of bamboo plantations as collateral for loans in government banks; priority in credit assistance and guarantee schemes in government financing institutions; exemption from cutting permit, harvesting, and permit to transport raw bamboo products; provided that the plantation from which it was gathered is registered with the Community Environment and Natural resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR. Moreover, bamboo plantations and equipment shall be covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

*(Summary prepared by: Ma. Trinidad D. Llorito, 2 March 2020)*

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