



SENATE

S. No. 1311

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PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE &  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON  
CIVIL SERVICE, GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION WITH SENATORS RECTO, AQUINO  
IV, POE, LACSON, ZUBIRI, VILLAR AND GORDON AS AUTHORS  
THEREOF

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AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485 OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007,  
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BUSINESS  
ANTI-RED TAPE AND COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9485 is amended  
2   to read as follows:

3                   "SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be  
4   known as the 'EXPANDED Anti-Red Tape Act of  
5   [2007] 2017'."

6           SEC. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9485 is amended to  
7   read as follows:

1           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby  
2       declared that the policy of the State to promote  
3       integrity, accountability, proper management of  
4       public affairs and public property as well as to  
5       establish effective practices, aimed at EFFICIENT  
6       TURNAROUND OF THE DELIVERY OF  
7       GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND the prevention of  
8       graft and corruption in the government. Towards this  
9       end, the State shall maintain honesty and  
10      responsibility among his public officials and  
11      employees, and shall take appropriate measures to  
12      promote transparency in each agency with regard to  
13      the manner of transacting with the public, which  
14      shall encompass a program for the [adoption of  
15      simplified and procedures that will reduce red tape  
16      and expedite transactions in government.]  
17      ADOPTION OF SIMPLIFIED REQUIREMENTS  
18      AND PROCEDURES THAT WILL REDUCE RED  
19      TAPE AND EXPEDITE BUSINESS AND NON-  
20      BUSINESS RELATED TRANSACTIONS IN THE  
21      GOVERNMENT.”

1        SEC. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9485 is amended to  
2        read as follows:

3                "SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all  
4        government offices and agencies including local  
5        government units (LGUs), government-owned or  
6        -controlled corporations AND OTHER  
7        GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES that  
8        provide frontline services COVERING BUSINESS  
9        AND NON-BUSINESS RELATED TRANSACTIONS  
10       as defined in this Act. Those performing judicial,  
11       quasi-judicial and legislative functions are excluded  
12       from the coverage of this Act."

13       SEC. 4. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9485 is amended to  
14       read as follows:

15                "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this  
16       Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

17                "(a) *"Simple Transactions"* refer to requests or  
18       applications submitted by clients of a government  
19       office or agency which only require ministerial actions  
20       on the part of the public officer or employee, or that  
21       which present only inconsequential issues for the

1 resolution by an officer or employee of said  
2 government office.

3 "(b) *"Complex Transactions"* refer to requests or  
4 applications submitted by clients of a government  
5 office which necessitate [the use of discretion]  
6 EVALUATION in the resolution of complicated issues  
7 by an officer or employee of said government office,  
8 such transaction to be determined by the office  
9 concerned.

10 "(c) *"Frontline Service"* refers to the process or  
11 transaction between clients and government offices or  
12 agencies involving applications for any privilege,  
13 right, permit, reward, license, concession, or for any  
14 modification, renewal or extension of the enumerated  
15 applications and/or requests which are acted upon in  
16 the ordinary course of business of the agency or office  
17 concerned.

18 "(d) *"Action"* refers to the written approval or  
19 disapproval made by a government office or agency on  
20 the application or request submitted by a client for  
21 processing.

1           “(e) *“Officer or Employee”* refers to a person  
2 employed in a government office or agency required to  
3 perform specific duties and responsibilities related to  
4 the application or request submitted by a client for  
5 processing.

6           “(f) *“Irrelevant requirement”* refers to any  
7 additional document NOT LISTED IN THE  
8 COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFORM LIST OF  
9 REQUIREMENTS POSTED IN THE CITIZEN'S  
10 CHARTER AND/or performance of an act not directly  
11 material to the resolution of the issues raised in the  
12 request or needed in the application submitted by the  
13 client.

14           “(g) *“Fixer”* refers to any individual whether or  
15 not officially involved in the operation of a  
16 government office or agency who has access to people  
17 working therein, and whether or not in collusion with  
18 them, facilitates speedy completion of transactions for  
19 pecuniary gain or any other advantage or  
20 consideration.

21           “(H) *“PROCESSING TIME”* REFERS TO THE  
22 TIME SPENT BY AN APPLICANT FROM THE

1 SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST OR APPLICATION  
2 WITH COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS,  
3 ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS AND PAYMENT  
4 OF FEES TO THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATION  
5 OR SUCH SIMILAR DOCUMENTS APPROVING OR  
6 DISAPPROVING THE REQUEST OR  
7 APPLICATION.

8 " (I) "*BUSINESS-RELATED TRANSACTIONS*"  
9 REFER TO A SET OF REGULATORY  
10 REQUIREMENTS THAT A BUSINESS ENTITY  
11 MUST COMPLY WITH TO ENGAGE OR OPERATE  
12 A BUSINESS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
13 COLLECTION OR PREPARATION OF A NUMBER  
14 OF DOCUMENTATION, SUBMISSION TO  
15 GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, APPROVAL OF  
16 APPLICATION SUBMITTED, AND RECEIPT OF A  
17 FORMAL CERTIFICATE OR CERTIFICATES,  
18 PERMITS, LICENSES, CLEARANCES AND SUCH  
19 SIMILAR DOCUMENTS WHICH CONFER  
20 ELIGIBILITY TO OPERATE AS A LEGITIMATE  
21 BUSINESS.

1           “(J) *“NON-BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS”*  
2       REFER TO ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT  
3       TRANSACTIONS NOT FALLING UNDER SECTION  
4       4 (I) OF THIS ACT.

5           “(K) *“REGULATION”* REFERS TO ANY  
6       LEGAL INSTRUMENT THAT GIVES EFFECT TO A  
7       GOVERNMENT POLICY INTERVENTION AND  
8       INCLUDES LICENSING, IMPOSING  
9       INFORMATION OBLIGATION, COMPLIANCE TO  
10      STANDARDS OR PAYMENT OF ANY FORM OF  
11      FEE, LEVY, CHARGE OR ANY OTHER  
12      STATUTORY AND REGULATORY  
13      REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT  
14      ACTIVITY.

15          “(L) *“HIGHLY TECHNICAL APPLICATION”*  
16      REFERS TO AN APPLICATION WHICH REQUIRES  
17      THE USE OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE,  
18      SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND/OR TRAINING IN THE  
19      PROCESSING AND/OR EVALUATION THEREOF.”

20               SEC. 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
21      amended to read as follows:

1           "SEC. 5. *Reengineering of Systems and*  
2           *Procedures.* — All offices and agencies which provide  
3           frontline services are hereby mandated to regularly  
4           undertake time and motion studies, undergo  
5           evaluation and improvement of their transaction  
6           systems and procedures and re-engineer the same if  
7           deemed necessary to reduce bureaucratic red tape and  
8           processing time.

9           "THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC)  
10          AND THE BUSINESS ANTI-RED TAPE AND  
11          COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU OF THE  
12          DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)  
13          UNDER SECTION 16 OF THIS ACT SHALL  
14          COORDINATE WITH ALL GOVERNMENT  
15          OFFICES COVERED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THIS  
16          ACT TO CONTINUE THE REVIEW AND REPEAL  
17          OF EXISTING EXECUTIVE ISSUANCES, AND  
18          RECOMMEND THE REPEAL OF EXISTING LAWS  
19          AND LOCAL ORDINANCES WHICH ARE  
20          OUTDATED, REDUNDANT, AND ADDS UNDUE  
21          REGULATORY BURDEN TO THE TRANSACTING  
22          PUBLIC.



1           "ALL PROPOSED REGULATIONS OF  
2 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES UNDER SECTION 3  
3 OF THIS ACT SHALL UNDERGO REGULATORY  
4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO ESTABLISH IF THE  
5 PROPOSED REGULATION DOES NOT ADD  
6 UNDUE REGULATORY BURDEN AND COST TO  
7 THESE AGENCIES AND THE APPLICANTS  
8 AND/OR REQUESTING PARTIES: *PROVIDED*,  
9 THAT, WHEN NECESSARY, ANY PROPOSED  
10 REGULATION MAY UNDERGO PILOT  
11 IMPLEMENTATION TO ASSESS REGULATORY  
12 IMPACT."

13       SEC. 6. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9485 is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15           "SEC. 6. *Citizen's Charter*. - All government  
16 agencies including departments, bureaus, offices,  
17 instrumentalities, or government-owned and/or  
18 -controlled corporations, or local government or  
19 district units shall set up their respective service  
20 standards to be known as the Citizen's Charter in the  
21 form of information billboards which should be posted  
22 at the main entrance of offices or at the most

1 conspicuous place, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE  
2 WEBSITES and in the form of published materials  
3 written either in English, Filipino, or in the local  
4 dialect, that detail:

5 "(a) A COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFORM  
6 CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH  
7 TYPE OF REQUEST AND/OR APPLICATION;

8 "(b) The procedure to obtain a particular service;

9 "(c) The person/s responsible for each step;

10 "(d) The maximum time to conclude the process;

11 "(e) The document/s to be presented by the  
12 customer, if necessary;

13 "(f) The amount of fees, if necessary; and

14 "(g) The procedure for filing complaints."

15 SEC. 7. A new Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9485 will now  
16 read as follows:

17 "SEC. 7. *ZERO-CONTACT POLICY*. – EXCEPT  
18 FOR DURING THE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT  
19 OF THE REQUEST AND EVALUATION OF  
20 SUFFICIENCY OF SUBMITTED REQUIREMENTS,  
21 NO GOVERNMENT OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE  
22 SHALL HAVE ANY CONTACT, IN ANY MANNER,

1 UNLESS STRICTLY NECESSARY WITH ANY  
2 CLIENT CONCERNING AN APPLICATION OR  
3 REQUEST. ONCE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
5 TECHNOLOGY OR DICT HAS COMPLETED A  
6 WEB-BASED SOFTWARE ENABLED BUSINESS  
7 REGISTRATION SYSTEM THAT IS ACCEPTABLE  
8 TO THE PUBLIC AS MANDATED BY SECTION 23  
9 OF THIS ACT, ALL TRANSACTIONS SHALL BE  
10 COURSED THROUGH SUCH SYSTEM. ALL  
11 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INCLUDING LOCAL  
12 GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) SHALL ADOPT A  
13 ZERO-CONTACT POLICY."

14 SEC. 8. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
15 renumbered as Section 8 and amended to read as follows:

16 "SEC. [7] 8. *Accountability of the Heads of*  
17 *Offices and Agencies.* – The head of the office or  
18 agency shall be primarily responsible for the  
19 implementation of this Act and shall be held  
20 accountable to the public in rendering fast, efficient,  
21 convenient and reliable service. All transactions and  
22 processes are deemed to have been made with the

1 permission or clearance from the highest authority  
2 having jurisdiction over the government office or  
3 agency concerned."

4 SEC. 9. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
5 renumbered as Section 9 and amended to read as follows:

6 "SEC. [8] 9. *Accessing Frontline Services.* – The  
7 following shall be adopted by all government offices  
8 and agencies:

9 "(a) Acceptance of Applications and Request –

10 "(1) All officers or employees shall accept  
11 written applications, requests, and/or documents  
12 being submitted by clients of the office or agencies.  
13 [(2) The responsible officer or employee shall  
14 acknowledge receipt of such application and/or  
15 request by writing, or printing clearly thereon his/her  
16 name the unit where he/she is connected with, and  
17 the time and date of receipt.]

18 "[ (3) ] (2) The receiving officer or employee shall  
19 perform a preliminary assessment of the  
20 APPLICATION/request SUBMITTED BY ITS  
21 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS [so as] to promote a  
22 more expeditious action on the request. THE

1 RECEIVING OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE SHALL  
2 IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE APPLICANT OF  
3 ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE ACCOMPANYING  
4 REQUIREMENTS, WHICH SHALL BE LIMITED TO  
5 THOSE ENUMERATED IN THE CITIZEN'S  
6 CHARTER.

7 "(3) THE RECEIVING OFFICER OR  
8 EMPLOYEE SHALL ASSIGN A UNIQUE  
9 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER TO A REQUEST  
10 AND/OR APPLICATION, WHICH SHALL BE THE  
11 IDENTIFYING NUMBER FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT  
12 TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT  
13 AND THE APPLICANT REGARDING SUCH  
14 SPECIFIC REQUEST OR APPLICATION.

15 "(4) THE RECEIVING OFFICER OR  
16 EMPLOYEE SHALL ISSUE AN  
17 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT CONTAINING  
18 THE SEAL OF THE AGENCY, THE NAME OF THE  
19 RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE,  
20 HIS/HER UNIT AND DESIGNATION, AND THE  
21 DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT OF SUCH  
22 REQUEST OR APPLICATION.

1           “(b) Action of Offices –

2           “(1) All applications and/or requests submitted  
3           shall be acted upon by the assigned officer or  
4           employee        WITHIN        THE        PRESCRIBED  
5           PROCESSING TIME [during the period] stated in the  
6           Citizen's Charter which shall not be longer than [five]  
7           THREE (3) working days in the case of simple  
8           transactions and [ten (10)] SEVEN (7) working days  
9           in the case of complex transactions from the date the  
10          request   AND/or   COMPLETE   application   was  
11          received. Depending on the nature of the frontline  
12          services requested or the mandate of the office or  
13          agency under unusual circumstances, the maximum  
14          time prescribed above may be extended ONLY ONCE  
15          FOR THE SAME NUMBER OF DAYS. For the  
16          extension due to nature of frontline services or the  
17          mandate of the office or agency concerned the period  
18          for the delivery of frontline services shall be indicated  
19          in the Citizen's Charter. [The office or agency  
20          concerned shall notify the requesting party in writing  
21          of the reason for the extension and the final date of  
22          release for the extension and the final date of release

1 of the frontline service/s requested.] PRIOR TO THE  
2 LAPSE OF THE PROCESSING TIME, THE OFFICE  
3 OR AGENCY CONCERN SHALL NOTIFY THE  
4 REQUESTING PARTY IN WRITING OF THE  
5 REASON FOR THE EXTENSION AND FINAL  
6 DATE OF RELEASE OF THE FRONTLINE  
7 SERVICE/S REQUESTED. SUCH WRITTEN  
8 NOTIFICATION SHALL BE SIGNED BY THE  
9 APPLICANT TO SERVE AS PROOF OF NOTICE.

10 "(2) No application or request shall be returned  
11 to the client without appropriate action. In case an  
12 application or request is disapproved, the officer or  
13 employee who rendered the decision shall send a  
14 formal notice to the client [within five working days  
15 from the receipt of the request and/or application]  
16 WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PROCESSING TIME,  
17 stating therein the reason for the disapproval  
18 [including a list of specific requirement/s which the  
19 client failed to submit].

20 "(c) Denial of Request for Access to Government  
21 Service - Any denial of request for access to  
22 government service shall be fully explained in

1 writing, stating the name of the person making the  
2 denial and the grounds upon which such denial is  
3 based. Any denial of request is deemed to have been  
4 made with the permission or clearance from the  
5 highest authority having jurisdiction over the  
6 government office or agency concerned.

7       “(d) Limitation of Signatories – The number of  
8 signatories in any document shall be limited to a  
9 maximum of [five] THREE (3) signatures which shall  
10 represent officers directly supervising the office or  
11 agency concerned: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN CASE THE  
12 AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY IS ON OFFICIAL  
13 BUSINESS OR OFFICIAL LEAVE, AN ALTERNATE  
14 SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS SIGNATORY.  
15 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES OR PRE-SIGNED  
16 PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATION WITH  
17 ADEQUATE SECURITY AND CONTROL  
18 MECHANISM MAY BE USED.

19       “(E) ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
20 COVERED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT  
21 SHALL, WHEN APPLICABLE, DEVELOP  
22 ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF LICENSES,



1 CLEARANCES AND/OR PERMITS WITH THE  
2 SAME LEVEL OF AUTHORITY, WHICH MAY BE  
3 PRINTED BY BUSINESSES IN THE  
4 CONVENIENCE OF THEIR OFFICES.

5 "[e)] (F) Adoption of Working Schedules to  
6 Serve Clients – Heads of offices and agencies which  
7 render frontline services shall adopt appropriate  
8 working schedules to ensure that all clients who are  
9 within their premises prior to the end of official  
10 working hours are attended to and served even during  
11 lunch break and after regular working hours.

12 "[f)] (G) Identification Card – All employees  
13 transacting with the public shall be provided with an  
14 official identification card which should be visibly  
15 worn during office hours.

16 "[g)] (H) Establishment of Public  
17 Assistance/Complaints Desk – Each office or agency  
18 shall establish a public assistance/complaints desk in  
19 all their offices."

20 SEC. 10. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
21 renumbered as Section 10 and amended to read as follows:

1           "SEC. [9] 10. *Automatic APPROVAL AND/OR*  
2           *Extension of Permits and Licenses.* - IF A  
3           GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR AGENCY FAILS TO  
4           APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE AN ORIGINAL  
5           APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT,  
6           LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION WITHIN THE  
7           PRESCRIBED PROCESSING TIME, SAID  
8           APPLICATION SHALL BE DEEMED APPROVED:  
9           *PROVIDED*, THAT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS  
10          HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AND ALL REQUIRED  
11          FEES AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN PAID. THE  
12          ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT ISSUED TO THE  
13          APPLICANT OR REQUESTING PARTY SHALL BE  
14          ENOUGH PROOF OR HAS THE SAME FORCE AND  
15          EFFECT OF A LICENSE, PERMIT OR  
16          CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS AUTOMATIC  
17          APPROVAL MECHANISM.

18                "If a government office or agency fails to act on  
19          an application and/or request for renewal of a license,  
20          permit, CERTIFICATION or authority subject for  
21          renewal within the prescribed [period] PROCESSING  
22          TIME, said permit, license, CERTIFICATION or

1 authority shall automatically be extended [until a  
2 decision or resolution is rendered on the application  
3 for renewal]: *Provided*, That the automatic  
4 APPROVAL AND extension shall not apply when the  
5 permit, license, CERTIFICATION or authority covers  
6 activities which pose danger to public health,  
7 public safety, public morals or to public policy  
8 AND/OR HIGHLY TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS  
9 including, but not limited to, natural resource  
10 extraction activities: *PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT*  
11 *THE PROCESSING TIME FOR REQUESTS AND*  
12 *OR APPLICATIONS WHICH POSE DANGER TO*  
13 *PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC*  
14 *MORALS, PUBLIC POLICY AND/OR HIGHLY*  
15 *TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS SHALL BE ACTED*  
16 *UPON WITHIN TWENTY (20) WORKING DAYS,*  
17 *AND MAY BE EXTENDED ONLY ONCE FOR*  
18 *ANOTHER TWENTY (20) WORKING DAYS, UPON*  
19 *DUE NOTICE TO THE REQUESTING PARTY OR*  
20 *THE APPLICANT PRIOR TO THE LAPSE OF THE*  
21 *INITIAL PROCESSING TIME: PROVIDED,*  
22 *FINALLY, THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE*

1 COMMISSION (CSC), DEPARTMENT OF TRADE  
2 AND INDUSTRY (DTI) AND THE OTHER  
3 AGENCIES WHICH SHALL FORMULATE THE  
4 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF  
5 THIS ACT SHALL PROVIDE A LISTING OF  
6 ACTIVITIES WHICH POSE DANGER TO PUBLIC  
7 HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC MORALS OR  
8 TO PUBLIC POLICY AND/OR HIGHLY  
9 TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS."

10 SEC. 11. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
11 renumbered as Section 11 and is amended to read as follows:

12 "SEC. [10] 11. *STREAMLINED PROCEDURES*  
13 *FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LOCAL BUSINESS*  
14 *PERMITS. – LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)*  
15 *ARE MANDATED TO IMPLEMENT THE*  
16 *FOLLOWING REVISED GUIDELINES IN THE*  
17 *ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS PERMITS AND*  
18 *LICENSES:*

19 "(A) A SINGLE OR UNIFIED BUSINESS  
20 APPLICATION FORM SHALL BE USED IN  
21 PROCESSING NEW APPLICATIONS FOR  
22 BUSINESS PERMITS AND BUSINESS RENEWALS

1        WHICH        CONSOLIDATES        ALL        THE  
2        INFORMATION OF THE APPLICANT BY VARIOUS  
3        LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SUCH  
4        AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE LOCAL TAXES  
5        AND CLEARANCES, BUILDING CLEARANCE,  
6        SANITARY PERMIT, ZONING CLEARANCE, AND  
7        OTHER SPECIFIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT  
8        REQUIREMENTS AS THE CASE MAY BE,  
9        INCLUDING THE FIRE CLEARANCE FROM THE  
10       BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFF). THE  
11       UNIFIED FORM SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE  
12       ONLINE        USING        TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL  
13       PLATFORMS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
14       THE CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL OR THE  
15       CITY/MUNICIPALITY'S WEBSITE AND VARIOUS  
16       CHANNELS        FOR        DISSEMINATION.        HARD  
17       COPIES OF THE UNIFIED FORMS SHALL  
18       LIKEWISE BE MADE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES  
19       IN DESIGNATED AREAS OF THE CONCERNED  
20       OFFICE AND/OR AGENCY.

21                "(B)        A        ONE-STOP        BUSINESS  
22        FACILITATION        SERVICE,        HEREINAFTER

1 REFERRED TO AS THE BUSINESS ONE STOP  
2 SHOP, FOR THE CITY/MUNICIPALITY'S  
3 BUSINESS PERMITTING AND LICENSING  
4 SYSTEM TO RECEIVE AND PROCESS MANUAL  
5 AND/OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF  
6 LICENSE, CLEARANCE AND/OR PERMIT  
7 APPLICATIONS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.  
8 THERE SHALL BE A QUEUING MECHANISM IN  
9 THE BUSINESS ONE STOP SHOP TO BETTER  
10 MANAGE FLOW OF APPLICATIONS AMONG  
11 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS'  
12 DEPARTMENTS RECEIVING AND PROCESSING  
13 APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE BUREAU OF  
14 FIRE PROTECTION (BFP).

15 "(C) CITIES/MUNICIPALITIES ARE  
16 MANDATED TO AUTOMATE THEIR BUSINESS  
17 PERMITTING AND LICENSING SYSTEM OR  
18 SET UP AN ELECTRONIC-BUSINESS ONE STOP  
19 SHOP WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS  
20 UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT FOR A  
21 MORE EFFICIENT BUSINESS REGISTRATION.  
22 CITIES/MUNICIPALITIES WITH ELECTRONIC-

1 BUSINESS ONE STOP SHOP SHALL DEVELOP  
2 ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF LICENSES,  
3 CLEARANCES AND/OR PERMITS WITH THE  
4 SAME LEVEL OF AUTHORITY, WHICH MAY BE  
5 PRINTED BY BUSINESSES IN THE  
6 CONVENIENCE OF THEIR OFFICES. THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND  
8 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT)  
9 SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL  
10 GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) THE  
11 SOFTWARE FOR THE COMPUTERIZATION OF  
12 THE BUSINESS PERMIT AND LICENSING  
13 SYSTEM. THE DEPARTMENT OF  
14 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
15 TECHNOLOGY (DICT), DEPARTMENT OF THE  
16 INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), AND  
17 THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
18 (DTI), SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL  
19 ASSISTANCE IN THE PLANNING AND  
20 IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPUTERIZED OR  
21 SOFTWARE-ENABLED BUSINESS PERMITTING  
22 AND LICENSING SYSTEM.

1           “(D) TO LESSEN THE TRANSACTION  
2           REQUIREMENTS, OTHER LOCAL CLEARANCES  
3           SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SANITARY  
4           PERMITS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
5           AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCES SHALL BE  
6           ISSUED TOGETHER WITH THE BUSINESS  
7           PERMIT.

8           “(E) BUSINESS PERMITS SHALL BE  
9           VALID FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR. THE  
10          CITY/MUNICIPALITY MAY HAVE THE OPTION  
11          TO RENEW BUSINESS PERMITS WITHIN THE  
12          FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR OR ON THE  
13          ANNIVERSARY DATE OF THE ISSUANCE OF  
14          THE BUSINESS PERMIT.”

15          SEC. 12. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
16          renumbered as Section 12 and will now read as follows:

17          “SEC. [11] 12. *STREAMLINED PROCEDURES*  
18          *FOR SECURING FIRE SAFETY CLEARANCE. –*  
19          FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRE SAFETY  
20          INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (FSIC), THE  
21          FOLLOWING SHALL BE ADOPTED TO MAKE  
22          BUSINESS PERMITTING MORE EFFICIENT:



1           “(A)   ISSUANCE   OF   FIRE   SAFETY  
2   CLEARANCE OR FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION  
3   CERTIFICATE (FSIC) SHALL IN NO CASE BE  
4   LONGER THAN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS;

5           “(B)   FOR   NEW   BUSINESS   PERMIT  
6   APPLICATION, THE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION  
7   CERTIFICATE (FSIC) ALREADY ISSUED DURING  
8   THE OCCUPANCY PERMIT STAGE SHALL BE  
9   SUFFICIENT AS BASIS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF  
10   THE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE  
11   (FSIC) FOR A BUSINESS ENTITY AS A  
12   REQUIREMENT FOR THE BUSINESS PERMIT;

13          “(C) FOR RENEWAL OF BUSINESS PERMIT,  
14   THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP),  
15   SHALL WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS FROM  
16   APPLICATION, PRESENT THE FIRE SAFETY  
17   INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (FSIC) TO THE  
18   CITY/MUNICIPALITY, EITHER THRU THE COPY  
19   OF THE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION  
20   CERTIFICATE (FSIC) OR THE  
21   NEGATIVE/POSITIVE LIST: *PROVIDED*, THAT  
22   THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL INFORM THE

1 BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) AND  
2 SUBMIT THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTARY  
3 REQUIREMENTS IF RENOVATIONS,  
4 MODIFICATIONS OR ANY FORM OF  
5 ALTERATIONS ARE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL  
6 BUILDING STRUCTURE THIRTY (30) DAYS  
7 BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE BUSINESS  
8 PERMIT;

9 " (D) IF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION  
10 (BFP) FAILS TO FURNISH THE  
11 CITY/MUNICIPALITY WITH A FIRE SAFETY  
12 INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (FSIC) OR TO  
13 INFORM THE SAME THROUGH THE  
14 NEGATIVE/POSITIVE LIST WITHIN THREE (3)  
15 DAYS FROM THE APPLICATION OF BUSINESS  
16 RENEWAL, THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL BE  
17 DEEMED TO HAVE A TEMPORARY VALID FIRE  
18 SAFETY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (FSIC) AND,  
19 THEREFORE, THE BASIS FOR THE AUTOMATIC  
20 RENEWAL OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT;

21 " (E) THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION  
22 (BFP) OR ANY OF ITS OFFICIALS OR

1 EMPLOYEES SHALL NOT SELL, OFFER TO SELL,  
2 OR RECOMMEND SPECIFIC BRANDS OF FIRE  
3 EXTINGUISHERS AND OTHER FIRE SAFETY  
4 EQUIPMENT TO ANY APPLICANT OR BUSINESS  
5 ENTITY. VIOLATION THEREOF SHALL BE  
6 PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1)  
7 YEAR TO SIX (6) YEARS;

8 " (F) THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION  
9 (BFP) SHALL CO-LOCATE WITH THE BUSINESS  
10 ONE STOP SHOP OR IN AN APPROPRIATE AREA  
11 DESIGNATED BY THE CITY/MUNICIPALITY  
12 WITHIN ITS PREMISES TO ASSESS AND  
13 COLLECT THE FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION FEES;

14 " (G) THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION  
15 (BFP) MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH  
16 CITIES/MUNICIPALITIES, ALLOWING THE  
17 LATTER TO BE DEPUTIZED AS ASSESSORS  
18 AND/OR COLLECTING AGENTS FOR THE FIRE  
19 SAFETY INSPECTION FEES; AND

20 " (H) THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION  
21 (BFP) MAY DEVELOP AND ADOPT AN ONLINE  
22 OR ELECTRONIC MECHANISM IN ASSESSING

1 FEES, COLLECTING/ACCEPTING PAYMENTS  
2 AND SHARING/EXCHANGE OF OTHER  
3 RELEVANT DATA ON BUSINESS PERMIT  
4 PROCESSING.”

5 “THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF  
6 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
7 AS “THE REVISED FIRE CODE OF THE  
8 PHILIPPINES OF 2008”, ARE HEREBY AMENDED  
9 ACCORDINGLY.”

10 SEC. 13. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
11 renumbered as Section 13 and will now read as follows:

12 “SEC. [12]13. *CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL.*  
13 – TO ELIMINATE BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE,  
14 AVERT GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES AND  
15 TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND SUSTAIN  
16 EASE IN DOING BUSINESS, THE DEPARTMENT  
17 OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
18 TECHNOLOGY (DICT) SHALL BE PRIMARILY  
19 RESPONSIBLE IN ESTABLISHING, OPERATING  
20 AND MAINTAINING, THROUGH THE  
21 GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, A CLOUD-  
22 NATIVE CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL OR

1       OTHER SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, AS THE  
2       DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND  
3       COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT) MAY  
4       PRESCRIBE.

5               "THE CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL SHALL  
6       SERVE AS A CENTRAL SYSTEM TO RECEIVE  
7       APPLICATIONS AND CAPTURE APPLICATION  
8       DATA INVOLVING BUSINESS-RELATED  
9       TRANSACTIONS, IN PARTICULAR, BUSINESS  
10      PERMITS AND LICENSES ISSUED BY THE  
11      LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS: *PROVIDED*, THAT  
12      THE CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL MAY ALSO  
13      PROVIDE LINKS TO THE ONLINE  
14      REGISTRATION OR APPLICATION SYSTEMS  
15      ESTABLISHED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
16      AGENCIES (NGAs).

17              "THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
18      AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
19      (DICT), UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE  
20      DATA PRIVACY COMMISSION, LOCAL  
21      GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND OTHER  
22      NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs)

1       SHALL ISSUE RULES AND GUIDELINES ON  
2       THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE ESTABLISHMENT,  
3       OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE  
4       CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL; AND (B) THE  
5       USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.

6       "THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
7       AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT)  
8       IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER CONCERNED  
9       NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL  
10      GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) SHALL ALSO  
11      CONDUCT INFORMATION DISSEMINATION  
12      CAMPAIGNS AIMED TOWARDS RAISING PUBLIC  
13      AWARENESS ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE  
14      CENTRAL BUSINESS PORTAL AND THE  
15      IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND EFFECTIVE  
16      UTILIZATION OF THE PROGRAM."

17      SEC. 14. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
18      renumbered as Section 14 and will now read as follows:

19      "SEC [13] 14. *PHILIPPINE BUSINESS*  
20      *DATABANK*. - WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE (1)  
21      YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT,  
22      THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND

1 COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (DICT) SHALL  
2 ESTABLISH, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN A  
3 PHILIPPINE BUSINESS DATABANK WHICH  
4 SHALL PROVIDE THE CONCERNED NATIONAL  
5 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs) AND LOCAL  
6 GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) ACCESS TO DATA  
7 AND INFORMATION OF REGISTERED BUSINESS  
8 ENTITIES FOR PURPOSES OF VERIFYING THE  
9 VALIDITY, EXISTENCE OF AND OTHER  
10 RELEVANT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO  
11 BUSINESS ENTITIES. ALL CONCERNED  
12 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs)  
13 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)  
14 SHALL EITHER LINK THEIR OWN DATABASE  
15 WITH THE SYSTEM OR PERIODICALLY SUBMIT  
16 TO THE SYSTEM UPDATES RELEVANT TO THE  
17 INFORMATION REGISTERED WITH THEM.

18 "THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
19 AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT),  
20 IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DATA PRIVACY  
21 COMMISSION, AND OTHER CONCERNED  
22 AGENCIES, SHALL ISSUE THE IMPLEMENTING

1        RULES     AND     REGULATION     ON     THE  
2        DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT, OPERATION  
3        AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE  
4        BUSINESS DATABANK WITHIN THREE (3)  
5        MONTHS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

6            "DOCUMENTS ALREADY SUBMITTED BY  
7        AN APPLICANT TO AN AGENCY WHICH HAS  
8        ACCESS TO THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS  
9        DATABANK SHALL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED  
10       BY OTHER AGENCIES HAVING THE SAME  
11       ACCESS. DOCUMENTS OR INFORMATION SHALL  
12       BE CROSSCHECKED AND RETRIEVED IN THE  
13       PHILIPPINE BUSINESS DATABANK.

14           "AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL,  
15       THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL BUSINESS PROCESS  
16       AND LICENSING OFFICE SHALL NOT REQUIRE  
17       THE SAME DOCUMENTS ALREADY PROVIDED  
18       BY THE APPLICANT TO THE LOCAL  
19       GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN CONNECTION  
20       WITH OTHER BUSINESS-RELATED LICENSES,  
21       CLEARANCES OR PERMITS SUCH AS, BUT NOT



1 LIMITED TO, TAX CLEARANCE, OCCUPANCY  
2 PERMIT AND BARANGAY CLEARANCE.”

3 SEC. 15. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
4 renumbered as Section 15 and will now read as follows:

5 “SEC. [14] 15. *CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.*

6 – THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC),  
7 ASIDE FROM ITS POWERS TO HEAR AND  
8 DECIDE ON COMPLAINTS ON ERRING  
9 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS AND  
10 NON-COMPLIANCE ON THE PROVISIONS OF  
11 THIS ACT, SHALL MONITOR THE  
12 PERFORMANCE OF FRONTLINE SERVICES,  
13 DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN FEEDBACK  
14 MECHANISM, RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENT IN  
15 PROBLEM AREAS AND INEFFICIENCIES IN  
16 FRONTLINE SERVICES, AND PROVIDE  
17 INCENTIVES FOR EXCELLENT DELIVERY OF  
18 SERVICES IN ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
19 THROUGH ITS INTEGRATED ANTI-RED TAPE  
20 ACT PROGRAM.”

21 SEC. 16. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
22 renumbered as Section 16 and will now read as follows:

1           “SEC. [15] 16. *BUSINESS ANTI-RED TAPE*  
2           *AND COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU.* - THE  
3           COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU IN THE  
4           DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)  
5           IS HEREBY RENAMED AS THE BUSINESS  
6           ANTI-RED TAPE AND COMPETITIVENESS  
7           BUREAU, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE  
8           BUREAU. IN ADDITION TO ITS EXISTING  
9           POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, THE BUREAU  
10          SHALL:

11               “(A) MONITOR THE COMPLIANCE OF  
12               FRONTLINE AGENCIES DELIVERING BUSINESS-  
13               RELATED TRANSACTIONS AS DEFINED UNDER  
14               THIS ACT;

15               “(B) RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FOR  
16               VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT AND REFER THE  
17               SAME TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE;

18               “(C) ASSIST COMPLAINANTS IN FILING  
19               NECESSARY CASES WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE  
20               COMMISSION (CSC), THE OMBUDSMAN AND  
21               OTHER APPROPRIATE COURTS, AS THE CASE  
22               MAY BE;

1           “(D) RECOMMEND POLICIES, PROCESSES  
2           AND SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE REGULATORY  
3           MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE THE  
4           PRODUCTIVITY, EFFICIENCY, AND  
5           EFFECTIVENESS OF BUSINESS PERMITTING  
6           AND LICENSING AGENCIES;

7           “(E) CONDUCT REGULATORY MANAGEMENT  
8           TRAINING PROGRAMS TO CAPACITATE  
9           NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs)  
10          AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) TO  
11          COMPLY WITH SOUND REGULATORY  
12          MANAGEMENT PRACTICES;

13          “(F) PREPARE, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
14          THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC),  
15          REGULATORY MANAGEMENT MANUALS FOR  
16          ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND/OR  
17          INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LGUS;

18          “(G) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,  
19          ADVISORY OPINIONS IN THE REVIEW OF  
20          PROPOSED NATIONAL OR LOCAL LEGISLATION,  
21          REGULATIONS OR PROCEDURES;

1           “(H) ENSURE THE DISSEMINATION OF AND  
2       PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON  
3       REGULATORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND  
4       CHANGES IN LAWS AND REGULATIONS  
5       RELEVANT TO THE PUBLIC BY ESTABLISHING  
6       THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS REGULATIONS  
7       INFORMATION SYSTEM;

8           “(I) ENLIST THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
9       OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC)  
10      AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE  
11      IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS POWERS AND  
12      FUNCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ACT; AND

13          “(J) PERFORM SUCH ACTS AS MAY BE  
14      NECESSARY TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF  
15      THIS ACT.

16          “THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
17      OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) IN  
18      CONSULTATION WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE  
19      COMMISSION (CSC) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
20      BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), SHALL  
21      DETERMINE THE QUALIFICATION STANDARDS,  
22      STAFFING PATTERN AND COMPENSATION IN

1 THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU IN  
2 ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES  
3 AND REGULATIONS.”

4 SEC. 17. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
5 renumbered as Section 17 and will now read as follows:

6 “SEC. [10] 17. *Report Card Survey*. – All offices  
7 and agencies providing frontline services shall be  
8 subjected to a Report Card Survey to be initiated by  
9 the Civil Service Commission (CSC), in coordination  
10 with the [Development Academy of the Philippines]  
11 BUSINESS ANTI-RED TAPE AND  
12 COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU AND THE  
13 PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA),  
14 which shall be used to obtain feedback on how  
15 provisions in the Citizen's Charter AND THE  
16 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT are being followed and  
17 how the agency is performing.

18 “The Report Card Survey shall also be used to  
19 obtain information and/or estimates of hidden costs  
20 incurred by clients to access frontline services which  
21 may include, but is not limited to, bribes and payment  
22 to fixers.

1           “A feedback mechanism shall be established in  
2           all agencies covered by this Act and the results  
3           thereof shall be incorporated in their annual report.”

4           SEC. 18. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
5           renumbered as Section 18 and will now read as follows:

6           “SEC. [11] 18. *Violations.* – After compliance  
7           with the substantive and procedural due process, the  
8           following shall constitute violations of this Act  
9           together with their corresponding penalties:

10          “(a) Light Offense – (1) Refusal to accept  
11          application and/or request within the prescribed  
12          period or any document being submitted by a client;

13          “(2) Failure to act on an application and/or  
14          request or failure to refer back to the client a request  
15          which cannot be acted upon due to lack of  
16          requirement/s within the prescribed period;

17          “(3) Failure to attend to clients who are within  
18          the premises of the office or agency concerned prior to  
19          the end of official working hours and during lunch;

20          “(4) Failure to render frontline services within  
21          the prescribed period on any application and/or  
22          request without due cause;

1           “(5) Failure to give the client a written notice on  
2           the disapproval of an application or request; and

3           “(6) Imposition of additional irrelevant  
4           requirements other than those listed in the [first  
5           notice] CITIZEN'S CHARTER.

6           “Penalties for light offense shall be as follows:

7           “First Offense – Thirty (30) days suspension  
8           without pay and mandatory attendance in Values  
9           Orientation Program;

10          “Second Offense – [Three (3)] SIX (6) months  
11          suspension without pay; and

12          “Third Offense – ONE (1) YEAR TO SIX (6)  
13          YEARS IMPRISONMENT, Dismissal and perpetual  
14          disqualification from public service, AND  
15          FORFEITURE OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

16          “(b) Grave Offense – Fixing and/or collusion  
17          with fixers in consideration of economic and/or other  
18          gain or advantage.

19          “Penalty – Dismissal and perpetual  
20          disqualification from public service.”

21          SEC. 19. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
22          renumbered as Section 19 and will now read as follows:

1           “SEC. [12] 19. *Criminal Liability [for Fixers].* –

2           In addition to Section 18 (b), fixers, as defined in this  
3           Act, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment not  
4           exceeding six years [or] AND a fine not less than  
5           Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) but not more  
6           than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) or  
7           both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the  
8           court.

9           “CRIMINAL LIABILITY SHALL ALSO BE  
10          INCURRED THROUGH THE COMMISSION OF  
11          BRIBERY, EXTORTION, OR WHEN THE  
12          VIOLATION WAS DONE DELIBERATELY AND  
13          MALICIOUSLY TO SOLICIT FAVOR IN CASH OR  
14          IN KIND. IN SUCH CASES, THE PERTINENT  
15          PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE  
16          AND OTHER SPECIAL LAWS SHALL APPLY. “

17          SEC. 20. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
18          renumbered as Section 20 and will now read as follows:

19          “SEC. [13] 20. *Civil and Criminal Liability, Not*  
20          *Barred.* – The finding of administrative liability under  
21          this Act shall not be a bar to the filing of criminal,  
22          civil or other related charges under existing laws



1 arising from the same act or omission as herein  
2 enumerated.”

3 SEC. 21. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 9485 is hereby  
4 renumbered as Section 21 and will now read as follows:

5 “SEC. [14] 21. *Administrative Jurisdiction.* –  
6 The administrative jurisdiction on any violation of the  
7 provisions of this Act shall be vested in either the  
8 Civil Service Commission (CSC), [the Presidential  
9 Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC)] or the Office of the  
10 Ombudsman as determined by appropriate laws and  
11 issuances.”

12 SEC. 22. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
13 renumbered as Section 22 and will now read as follows:

14 “SEC. [15] 22. *Immunity; Discharge of Co-*  
15 *Respondent/Accused to be a Witness.* – Any public  
16 official or employee or any person having been  
17 charged with another under this Act and who  
18 voluntarily gives information pertaining to an  
19 investigation or who willingly testifies therefore, shall  
20 be exempt from prosecution in the case/s where  
21 his/her information and testimony are given. The  
22 discharge may be granted and directed by the

1 investigating body or court upon the application or  
2 petition of any of the respondent/accused-informant  
3 and before the termination of the  
4 investigation: *Provided, That:*

5 "(a) There is absolute necessity for the  
6 testimony of the respondent/accused-informant whose  
7 discharge is requested;

8 "(b) There is no other direct evidence available  
9 for the proper prosecution of the offense committed,  
10 except the testimony of said respondent/accused-  
11 informant;

12 "(c) The testimony of said respondent/accused-  
13 informant can be substantially corroborated in its  
14 material points;

15 "(d) The respondent/accused-informant has not  
16 been previously convicted of a crime involving moral  
17 turpitude; and

18 "(e) Said respondent/accused-informant does not  
19 appear to be the most guilty.

20 "Evidence adduced in support of the discharge  
21 shall automatically form part of the records of the  
22 investigation. Should the investigating body or court

1 deny the motion or request for discharge as a witness,  
2 his/her sworn statement shall be inadmissible as  
3 evidence."

4 SEC. 23. A new Section 23 is hereby included in Republic  
5 Act No. 9485 to read as follows:

6 "SEC. 23. *TRANSITION FROM MANUAL*  
7 *TO SOFTWARE-ENABLED BUSINESS-RELATED*  
8 *TRANSACTIONS. - THE DEPARTMENT OF*  
9 *INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS*  
10 *TECHNOLOGY (DICT), IN COORDINATION WITH*  
11 *OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES, SHALL WITHIN*  
12 *TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF*  
13 *THIS ACT AUTOMATE BUSINESS-RELATED*  
14 *TRANSACTIONS BY DEVELOPING THE*  
15 *NECESSARY SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY-*  
16 *NEUTRAL PLATFORMS AND SECURED*  
17 *INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS WEB-BASED AND*  
18 *ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC."*

19 SEC. 24. A new Section 24 is hereby incorporated in  
20 Republic Act No 9485 to read as follows:

21 "SEC. 24. *TRANSITORY PROVISION. - ALL*  
22 *BUSINESS REGULATORY MANAGEMENT*

1       PROGRAMS AND BUSINESS-RELATED ANTI-RED  
2       TAPE INITIATIVES ACROSS GOVERNMENT  
3       AGENCIES SHALL BE GATHERED BY THE  
4       BUREAU. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND  
5       INDUSTRY (DTI), THE NATIONAL  
6       COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (NCC),  
7       DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), THE  
8       DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE  
9       PHILIPPINES (DAP), AND THE NATIONAL  
10      ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA)  
11      SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BUREAU A REPORT ON  
12      THE STATUS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS  
13      RELATED TO BUSINESS REGULATORY  
14      MANAGEMENT.”

15      SEC. 25. A new Section 25 is hereby incorporated in  
16      Republic Act No. 9485 to read as follows;

17           “SEC. 25. *APPROPRIATIONS.* – THE  
18      AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION PESOS  
19      (P20,000,000.00) AS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR  
20      THE BUREAU TO BE CHARGED AGAINST THE  
21      UNEXPENDED CONTINGENCY FUNDS OF THE

1 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS HEREBY  
2 APPROPRIATED. THEREAFTER, THE AMOUNT  
3 NEEDED FOR THE OPERATION AND  
4 MAINTENANCE OF THE BUREAU SHALL BE  
5 INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
6 APPROPRIATIONS ACT. "

7 SEC. 26. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
8 renumbered as Section 26 and will now read as follows:

9 "SEC. [16] 26. *Implementing Rules and*  
10 *Regulations.* – The Civil Service Commission (CSC) in  
11 coordination with the DEPARTMENT OF TRADE  
12 AND INDUSTRY (DTI), DEPARTMENT OF  
13 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
14 TECHNOLOGY (DICT), THE [Development Academy  
15 of the Philippines (DAP)] PHILIPPINE STATISTICS  
16 AUTHORITY (PSA), AND the Office of the  
17 Ombudsman [and the Presidential Anti-Graft  
18 Commission (PAGC)], shall promulgate the necessary  
19 rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the  
20 effectivity of this Act."

21 SEC. 27. Section 17 of Republic Act No 9485 is  
22 renumbered as Section 27 and will now read as follows:

1           “SEC. [17] 27. *Separability Clause*. – If any  
2           provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or  
3           unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the  
4           validity of the remaining provisions of this Act.”

5           SEC. 28. Section 18 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
6           renumbered as Section 28 and will now read as follows:

7           “SEC. [18] 28. *Repealing Clause*. – All provisions  
8           of laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and  
9           other presidential issuances which are incompatible  
10          or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
11          hereby deemed amended or repealed.”

12          SEC. 29. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 9485 is  
13          renumbered as Section 29 and will now read as follows:

14          “SEC. [19] 29. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take  
15          effect within fifteen (15) days following its publication  
16          in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national  
17          newspapers of general circulation.”

Approved,