

17 October 2019

REPRESENTATIVE WESLIE GATCHALIAN

Chairperson
House Committee on Trade and Industry
House of Representatives,
Quezon City, Manila, Philippines

Dear Representative Gatchalian:

We are pleased to submit the Department's comments and recommendations on **House Bill No. 2011**, entitled:

"An Act Improving the Quality of Regulation and Reduce Regulatory Burden through the Creation of a Government Efficiency Office"

This is without prejudice to the Department's submission of additional inputs

With my best regards,

Very truly yours,


RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DTI Position on

House Bill No. 2011

“An Act Improving the Quality of Regulation and Reduce Regulatory Burden through the Creation of a Government Efficiency Office”

The Department expresses its reservations on the proposed measure seeking the creation of a Government Efficiency Office (GEO) to safeguard efficient enactment of existing and proposed government regulations and alleviate the burden carried by the citizenry. We opine that the proposed mandate and functions of the GEO are already performed by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), thus, may encroach on the latter's mandate, create confusion with regard to the lead agency in regulatory management, and add undue regulatory burden, ultimately undermining the spirit of government efficiency.

It is worth noting that Republic Act (RA) No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, through its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), is in its initial stage of implementation, as the law was enacted on 28 May 2018 and promulgated only on 17 July 2019. The law amended RA No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. The amendment mandates the “adoption of simplified requirements and procedures that will reduce red tape and expedite business and nonbusiness related transactions in the government.”¹

RA No. 11032 decrees all government agencies to conduct compliance cost analysis, time and motion studies, evaluation and improvement/reengineering of processes, as necessary, to reduce bureaucratic red tape, processing time and promote efficiency and simplicity of Government-to-Citizens (G2C), Government-to-Business (G2B), and Government-to-Government (G2G) transactions.²

In addition, the ARTA was tasked to develop and establish a Regulatory Management System (RMS) to enhance regulatory management and quality. The authority will also conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to review, simplify, and modernize laws, regulations, issuances and ordinances to diminish regulatory burden and cost by repealing redundancies.

Bearing in mind that the ARTA, by virtue of RA No. 11032, already performs the aforementioned mandate of the proposed GEO, we wish to reiterate our reservations on the bill. Creating a GEO with the same mandate as the ARTA will only lead to confusion and add undue regulatory burden to the citizenry.

Sayapornchai
Bureau of Trade and Industrial Policy Research
17 October 2019

Ref: BTIPR-102019-79
/ajds

¹ Source: Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2019-001 Series of 2019. The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 11032 otherwise known as the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”

² Ibid.