

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'15 AUG -3 P3:18

SENATE  
S. No. 2882

RECEIVED BY: *J*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY  
OF SCIENTISTS TO INTERACT WITH POLICYMAKERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 12 provides:

Section 12. The State shall regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit. It shall encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology.

Our country has been blessed with gifted scientists who have produced breakthroughs in many fields of sciences. The sad reality however is that many if not most of the scientists in our country do not have the necessary training and support to be able to communicate their findings to the policymakers who can put their work to good use.

With the increasing presence of science and technology in public policy issues, a greater national effort needs to be made to train scientists to engage in the public dialogue. Graduate training programs in science and engineering often lack opportunities for students to develop communications skills that will enable them to effectively explain technical topics to nonscientific audiences.

Providing training in communications skills development will ensure that locally trained scientists are better prepared to engage in dialogue on technical topics with policymakers and business leaders. Training scientists to interact with policymakers will

improve accessibility to information and ensure that technical expertise is included in the public policy dialogue.

This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Science and Technology to encourage programs that will train our scientists to communicate the results of their endeavors to the policymakers.<sup>1</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Scientific  
2 Communications Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Program.* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
4 shall establish a program to make grants to institutions to provide communications  
5 training to graduate students to improve the ability of scientists to interact with  
6 policymakers. Such program shall be integrated with other national programs for the  
7 training of scientists.

8 SECTION 3. *Award.* – Grants shall be awarded under this Act on a competitive,  
9 merit-reviewed basis, in a manner so as to ensure relevance to public policymaking.

10 SECTION 4. *Reporting.* – A recipient of a grant under this Act shall transmit to  
11 the DOST an annual report describing the operations of the program funded by the grant.

12 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such  
13 amount as hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National  
14 Treasury.

1           SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
3 provisions hereof.

4           SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or  
5 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby  
6 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7           SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
8 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fldp31July2015