

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 26 P3:39

SENATE
S.B. No. 3151

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA
CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT"

Explanatory Note

We find science and technology embedded in every branch of modern life, driving progress and innovation. It is in the best interest of the country and its people to foster our local talent in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) to drive development in the Philippines and improve the lives of millions of Filipinos.

In 2010, only 2.3% of our 31-million workforce were classified under S&T professionals¹. In the two-decade assessment of science and technology human resources in our country, a two-fold increase in the number of S&T professionals from 1990 to 2010 was coupled with an almost three-fold increase in S&T professionals that work overseas².

In government, the reports³ on the exodus of S&T professionals from agencies like PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, and ASTI have attracted public interest in the past years and motives for their migration were revealed, including uncompetitive local compensation and protracted processing of hazard pay.

In line with these findings, this measure aims to:

1. Remove set limits on additional salary or honoraria for S&T professionals; and
2. Foster ease in accessing benefits for S&T personnel in departments and agencies other than DOST.

It is high time we deliberately retain and empower our Filipino scientists, engineers, researchers, and other science and technology practitioners so we may harness the benefits of S&T to further our national agenda.

Regulations inimical to this interest must be addressed immediately.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

¹ In 2010, only 721 thousand of the 31 million Filipino workers aged 15 years old and over were S&T professionals (SEI-DOST, 2014)

² Results of the study revealed an increasing trend in the number of human resources in Science and Technology (HRST) using census data (SEI-DOST, 2014). HRST increased two-fold from 362 thousand in 1990, to 721 thousand in 2010; and those working overseas numbered 40,000 and 113,000 respectively.

³ Calanzo, A. (2014, June 3). Mass exodus of Pinoy scientists from gov't agencies bared. Retrieved January 10, 2016, from <http://rap.rti/hx1P9B>

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers,
3 Researchers and other S & T Personnel in the PHILIPPINES"

4 **SEC. 2.** Section 6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 "Section 6. *Salaries.* – The existing law on salary scale of government employees shall not apply
6 in determining the salary scale of science and technology personnel as defined in Section 5 of
7 this Act. A new salary scale shall be developed by the Department in consultation with the
8 Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, subject to the
9 approval of the President. **IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE NO SET LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF
10 ADDITIONAL SALARY OR HONORARIA THAT SCIENTISTS CAN RECEIVE AS COMPENSATION
11 FROM INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS-IN-AID, PROVIDED THIS IS PART OF A
12 PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BUDGET FROM THE FUNDING AGENCY AND DOES NOT ENTAIL
13 ADDITIONAL USUAL EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT."**

14 **SEC. 3.** Section 8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 "Section 8. *Non-DOST S & T personnel.* – S & T personnel not employed by the Department, who
16 are involved in STA may avail of the benefits under this Act upon certification of the **HEAD OF
17 THEIR AGENCY THAT THEY ARE INVOLVED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER
18 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES."**

19 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and effective.

21 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof,
22 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or
23 modified accordingly.

24 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
25 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26 *Approved,*