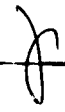


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'16 JUL 20 P 3:27

SENATE
S.B. No. 679

BY: 

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

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S & T
PERSONNEL IN THE 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, PHILVOLCS, and ASTI has 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 of honoraria for S&T professionals; and
2. Foster ease in accessing benefits for S&T personnel in departments and agencies other than DOST.

¹ In 2010, only 771 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 (HIRST) using census data (SEI-DOST,2014). HIRST increase two fold from 362 thousand in 1990, to 721 thousand in 2010; and those working overseas numbered 40,000 and 113,000 respectively.

³ Calonzo, A. (2014, June 3). Mass exodus of Pinoy scientists from gov't agencies bared. January 10, 2016, from <http://goo.gl/hXLP2R>

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" A. Aquino IV



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**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S & T
PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT"**

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

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

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

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

23 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended. All
24 laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with
25 the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

28 *Approved,*