

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1233

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution states that:

Article 14, Section 2(1). The State shall establish and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Article 14, Section 10. Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to -xxx- science and technology education, training and services.

If our country is to be globally competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need to be one of the best in the world in mathematics and science achievement. This will require a comprehensive, age-appropriate science program for students starting in pre-school.

Pre-schoolers need basic, age-appropriate science experiences, in order to develop educationally at a normal rate. However, these children have very limited opportunities to be exposed to science activities, as most pre-school teachers have little experience with simple science activities.

The purpose of this Act is to provide pre-school teachers with training programs, directed toward the use of age-appropriate science activities, in order to increase their students' interest in and familiarity with science. All students should have a basic exposure

to science activities, in order to attain our goal of becoming one of the best in the world in  
mathematics and science achievement.

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*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT  
TO ESTABLISH A SCIENCE START GRANT PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Science Start Grant Program Act."

SECTION 2. - *Model Science Start Programs For The Introduction Of Science In Early Childhood Education.* (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED- The Secretary of the Department of Education may award grants, to be known as Science Start Grants, to organizations to enable such organizations to support model programs that provide instruction to pre-school teachers regarding the introduction of science activities to children enrolled in pre-school programs.

(b) PRIORITY- In awarding grants under this Section, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that demonstrate the ability to:

- (1) provide teacher training programs that involve participants in hands-on activities similar to activities that are intended for students;
- (2) attract broad teacher participation;

(3) use experienced teachers as instructors;

(4) provide the materials required by the activities described in paragraph (1), but not commonly found in classrooms, except that not more than 25 percent of the funds awarded for each fiscal year to any organization for a model program shall be used to carry out this paragraph; and

(5) provide for periodic follow-up activities conducted, at minimum, during a 6-month period.

(c) DISSEMINATION- Each recipient of a grant under this section shall report the results of the model program to the Department of Education in an appropriate format for dissemination.

SECTION 3. *Evaluation And Report.* - The Secretary shall evaluate, and report to the Congress every 2 years (beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act) regarding the activities assisted under this program.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Education.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or

inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

MJS  
10/14/98