

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'16 AUG 22 P2:12

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1054

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

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AN ACT  
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY (S&T) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY  
MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO ALL INCOMING COLLEGE  
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING COURSES IN STATE  
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*Republic Act No. 10612* entitled, "Fast-Tracked S&T Scholarship Act of 2013," provides for scholarships to deserving third year college students to enable them to pursue higher education or training in the areas of science, technology, and engineering, and to provide incentives for them to become secondary school teachers, especially in their home regions.

However, the *Fast-Tracked S&T Scholarship Act of 2013* still refers to the scholarship program awarded under *R.A. No. 7687* entitled, the "Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994," which limits the distribution of scholarship slots to at least two (2) scholars in each municipality of the Philippines and at least ten (10) scholars for those congressional districts without a municipality.

The limited slots provided for the scholarship program under *R.A. No. 7687* and the need to be in third year college before being considered as qualified applicants for the scholarship program under *R.A. No. 10612* discourage poor but intelligent students to enroll in an undergraduate course, especially in fields like science, technology, mathematics, and engineering in state colleges and universities.

To address these concerns, this bill proposes to make the scholarship program available to all incoming students enrolled in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering courses in state universities and colleges.

Hence, the immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III



1 In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State  
2 to provide for scholarships to incoming students enrolled in science,  
3 technology, mathematics, and engineering courses in state universities  
4 and colleges (SUCs) to enable them to pursue higher education or  
5 training in their chosen field of sciences.

6 **SEC. 3. *Scholarship Program.*** – This Act builds on the current  
7 Science and Technology Scholarships offered by the Department of  
8 Science and Technology (DOST), through its Science Education  
9 Institute (SEI), as provided for in *Republic Act No. 7687*, otherwise  
10 known as the “Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994” and in  
11 *R.A. No. 10612*, otherwise known as the “Fast-Tracked S&T Scholarship  
12 Act of 2013.” This Act offers scholarships to incoming students in  
13 science, technology, mathematics, and engineering courses enrolled in  
14 SUCs, subject to the following qualifications:

15 (a) Be a Filipino citizen;

16 (b) Be currently enrolled in any of the SUCs under any of the  
17 identified priority S&T courses; and

18 (c) For the years following the availment of the scholarship  
19 program, have a general weighted average (GWA) of eighty-three  
20 percent (83%) or better.

21 **SEC. 4. *Award Amounts.*** – Recipients are entitled to an annual  
22 award for full-time study equal to the complete financial package  
23 offered under *R.A. No. 7687*.

1           **SEC. 5. *Duration.*** – Recipients shall be entitled to an award while  
2 matriculating in an approved program but shall not exceed five (5) years  
3 from the time of availment of the scholarship program.

4           **SEC. 6. *Approved Courses and Priority Programs.*** – Recipients  
5 shall pursue degrees in science, technology, mathematics, and engineer,  
6 identified and approved by the DOST as priority S&T courses.  
7 Applicants who are currently enrolled under such courses in SUCs shall  
8 also be qualified as recipients under this Act as long as they have a  
9 GWA of at least eighty-three percent (83%).

10           **SEC. 7. *Additional terms and conditions.*** – In addition to the terms  
11 and conditions under *Section 9 of R.A. No. 10612*, applicants must also  
12 agree to the prohibition from leaving the country for work or residence  
13 abroad until the required return of service obligation has been rendered  
14 in full or until the amount equal to the full tuition and other school fees  
15 awarded the grantee if he or she was not covered by the scholarship  
16 program has been paid in full.

17           Failure to comply with the terms of the service contract will result  
18 in the full repayment (plus penalties, if applicable) of all award monies  
19 received within a specified time limit. The spouse, or in the absence  
20 thereof, parent/s or legal guardians, shall be sureties in case the grantee  
21 fails to make full repayment of the award monies.

22           **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60)  
23 days from the effectivity of this Act, DOST, CHED, and the Department

1 of Education, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in higher  
2 education, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

3       **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the  
4 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s  
5 appropriations of the SEI under the DOST. Thereafter, such sums as  
6 may be necessary to augment the Science and Technology Scholarship  
7 Fund, as provided for in Republic Act No. 7687, shall be included in the  
8 annual General Appropriations Act.

9       In addition, the SEI is authorized to accept grants, contributions,  
10 and/or donations from domestic and foreign sources for scholarship  
11 grants.

12       **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision of this Act  
13 or part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts  
14 not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

15       **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees, orders,  
16 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are  
17 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18       **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
19 after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
20 circulation.

*Approved,*