

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

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SENATE  
S. B. 1645

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development.

The continued growth and prosperity of the high technology industry is important to the continued prosperity of the economy. An adequate supply of highly skilled technology workers is essential for the advanced technologies and business entities.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of information technology workers and workers in other high technology industries.

In the absence of a concerted effort by business entities, the government, and educational institutions, the shortage of information technology workers will continue to be a problem.

Hence, this bill seeks to provide for various investments in technology education in order to mold highly skilled information technology workers.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Technology Education Capital Investment Act.”

SECTION 2. *National Science Foundation Education Programs.* –

(1) INFORMAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS – There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as “Secretary”) such sums as may be necessary to conduct, in coordination with the Secretary of Department of Education, Culture, and Sports, informal science and math education programs.

(2) The informal science and math education programs conducted shall promote the understanding of science and technology through voluntary, self-directed, and life-long learning opportunities by fostering community-based and institutional math and science education programs. In such programs, the Secretary may give priority to providing for organizations, projects, or programs that provide inquiry-based and hands-on scientific learning opportunities for students at pre-kindergarten through secondary education levels.

SECTION 3. *Hands-On Student Training (H. O. S. T.) Partnership Grants.* –

(1) IN GENERAL – The Secretary of Trade and Industry may make start-up grants to institutions of higher learning to develop industry-sponsored internship programs that provide opportunities for undergraduate engineering students to receive hands-on training at local businesses.

(2) PRIORITIES – Special emphasis shall be given under this section to those programs that –

(A) demonstrate a long term financial commitment from industry participants for initiation and long-term operation of the program;

(B) involve extensive input and participation by all industry participants;

(C) adequately financially compensate student participants; and

(D) encourage technology education.

(3) RESTRICTIONS –

(A) Not more than one (1) grant shall be awarded to an entity under subsection (1).

(B) Awards under subsection (1) may be applied to expenses related to the creation of the programs described in that subsection, including the recruitment of businesses or organizations to participate in such programs.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS – There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Trade and Industry such sums as may be necessary for grants under this section.

#### SECTION 4. *Technology Workforce Commission.* –

(1) DEFINITIONS – In this Act:

(A) BUSINESS ENTITY – The term ‘business entity’ means a firm, corporation, association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, or other form of enterprise.

(B) COMMISSION – The term “Commission” means the Technology Workforce Commission established under subsection (2).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE COMMISSION –

(A) IN GENERAL – There is established a commission to be known as the Technology Workforce Commission.

(B) MEMBERSHIP –

(i) COMPOSITION – The Commission shall be composed of twenty (21) members to be appointed as follows:

(a) Eleven (11) members shall be appointed by the President, of whom five (5) shall be individuals who are officers or employees of appropriate executive agency or department and the rest shall be individuals employed in high technology business entities.

(b) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be members of Congress.

(c) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the Senate President, who shall be members of Congress.

(ii) DATE – The appointments of the members of the Commission shall be made by the date that is thirty (30) days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES – Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(D) INITIAL MEETING – Not later than thirty (30) days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(E) MEETINGS – The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(F) QUORUM – A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(G) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON – The Commission shall select a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.

(3) DUTIES OF COMMISSION –

(A) STUDY –

(i) IN GENERAL – The Commission shall conduct a thorough study of all matters relating to the shortage of technology workers.

(ii) MATTERS STUDIED – The matters studied by the Commission shall include an examination of –

(a) the causes of shortage of technology workers;

(b) possible solutions to address the shortage referred to in clause (a); and

(c) the relative efficacy of programs in the Philippines and foreign countries to provide for an increase in the number of technology workers, with special emphasis on programs that provide for secondary education or postsecondary education in a program other than a 4-year baccalaureate program (including associate degree programs and graduate degree programs).

(B) PUBLIC HEARINGS – As part of the study concocted under this subsection, the Commission shall hold public hearings concerning the issues referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of subparagraph (ii).

(C) EXISTING INFORMATION – To the extent practicable, in carrying out the study under this subsection, the Commission shall identify and use existing information related to the issues referred to in the clauses (a) and (b) of subparagraph (ii).

(D) REPORT – Not later than one (1) year after the initial meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit a report to the President and the Congress which shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendations for such legislations and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

(E) FACILITATION OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION – In carrying out the study in this subsection, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, facilitate the exchange of the information concerning the issues that are the subject of the study among –

(i) officials of the government and political subdivisions thereof;  
and

(ii) educators from local institutions of higher education and  
secondary schools.

(4) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION –

(A) HEARINGS – The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(B) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES – The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(C) POSTAL SERVICES – The Commission may use the mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Government.

(D) GIFTS – The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(5) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS –

(A) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS – Except as provided in paragraph (B), each member of the Commission who is not an officer or an employee of the government shall serve without compensation. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the government shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES – The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under existing laws, rules or regulations,

while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(C) STAFF -

(i) IN GENERAL – The Chairperson of the Committee may, without regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(ii) COMPENSATION – The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel in accordance with Civil Service laws and regulations.

(D) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES – Any government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(6) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION – The Commission shall terminate on the date that is ninety (90) days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under this subsection.

(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS –

(A) IN GENERAL – There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to the Commission to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(B) AVAILABILITY – Any sums appropriated under the authorization contained in this section shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until expended.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected 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 provision 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.