

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 FEB -7 P3:34

SENATE
S. No. 2541

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTEES OF AGRICULTURE, GEOLOGY, AND METEOROLOGY PROGRAMS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7687, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP OF 1994"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Philippine economy. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the contribution of agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector in our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022 was 8.9 percent¹. Unfortunately, this marks the lowest contribution to our GDP over the past five years². Although this sector has continuously contributed to our GDP, the same is at risk primarily because of our location on the Pacific Ring of Fire, exposing us to the risks of natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and typhoons, which result to substantial damages.

Given the significance of agriculture and fisheries, geology, and meteorology to our national interests, it is extremely unfortunate that we have a low number of enrollees in programs related to these fields.

¹ Statista. (2023, June 20). GDP share of agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector Philippines 2016-2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1265742/philippines-gdp-share-of-agriculture-forestry-and-fishing-sector/#:~:text=The%20contribution%20of%20the%20agriculture,has%20remained%20below%2011%20percent.>

² Rivera, D. (2023, June 19). Agriculture sector remains lowest GDP contributor. Philstar.com. <https://www.philstar.com/business/2023/06/20/2275068/agriculture-sector-remains-lowest-gdp-contributor>

It is essential to our national interest to establish and maintain scientific communities and organization specializing in food production and geosciences. It thus behooves our government to escalate our efforts to promote education and entry into the said fields. One way to encourage more enrollees in programs related to these fields is through the provision of additional financial assistance. The grant of financial assistance shall be subject to the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso, and the rate of financial assistance given under the other government scholarship programs.

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



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Expanded Benefits of
2 Science and Technology Scholarship Grantees of Agriculture, Geology, and
3 Meteorology Programs Act."

4 SEC. 2. Section 7-A is hereby inserted after Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7687,
5 otherwise known as the "Science and Technology Act of 1994" to read as follows:

6 Section 7. *Assistance to Grantees.* — The grantee of the
7 scholarship program under this Act is entitled to financial assistance
8 which may include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for
9 prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, outright grant
10 for prescribed military science and physical education uniform,
11 transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: Provided,
12 however, That in the granting of financial assistance, the availability
13 of funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial
14 assistance given under other government scholarship programs
15 must be considered.

1 SECTION 7-A. *ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SCIENCE AND*
2 *TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTEES ENROLLED IN*
3 *AGRICULTURE, GEOLOGY, AND METEOROLOGY PROGRAMS.* – IN
4 ADDITION TO THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTRIGHT
5 GRANTS THAT ARE ENTITLED TO GRANTEES OF THE SCIENCE
6 AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP, GRANTEES ENROLLED IN THE
7 AGRICULTURE, GEOLOGY, AND METEOROLOGY PROGRAMS ARE
8 ENTITLED TO AN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY STIPEND. THE AMOUNT
9 OF STIPEND SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE
11 FAMILY INCOME OF GRANTEE AND THE FINANCIAL
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE UNDERTAKEN.

13 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act shall be declared
14 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in
15 full force and effect.

16 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, executive orders and
17 issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
18 that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended,
19 accordingly.

20 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,