

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 OCT -3 21 00

SENATE
S.B. 1696

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

“Take not the road less traveled.
Rather, make new roads.
Blaze new trails.
Find new routes to your dreams.
We may not know how far we can go.
But if we are brave, defiant searchers of excellence,
we will go far.
Explore possibilities that others may get a similar chance.”

- *from the valedictory speech of
Mikaela Fudolig, who at 16,
graduated Summa Cum Laude,
with a degree in BS Physics,
University of the Philippines,
Class of 2007*

This legislation is intended to promote excellence. And to encourage young people to follow the academic disposition of Mikaela Fudolig and to pursue interests in educational areas and courses considered as unattractive and difficult but highly required in the years to come.

Education makes a country. The degree of literacy of every nation is an insignia of its advancement. Education is the most potent weapon to empower people and win the battle of societal decay.

Against the backdrop that the Philippines lacks professionals with specialised background in engineering, sciences, technology, biotechnology and cutting-edge courses and that by 2010, the demand for capable people with distinct knowledge is greater, this legislation is submitted. Its significant points as follows:

1. It creates a program for excellence in science and technology courses that includes mechatronics engineering, physics, metallurgical and mining sciences, biotechnology, plant science and other cutting-edge courses;
2. It establishes a Seven-Year Special Scholarship Fund that would pole vault S & T education and will be accessible to young talented Filipinos to support their education;

3. It encourages young people to patriotically serve the government in exchange for the scholarships given to them. The same would redound to the country's S & T, pedagogy and to the bureaucracy as a whole, as it will be manned by competent and highly specialized young people.

Early recognition of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT
PROMOTING ADVANCED SCIENCE AND CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING A SPECIAL FUND
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. It is a declared policy of the State that science and technology are essential for national development and that the State shall give priority to S & T education, training and services. Considering the dearth and need for Filipinos learned in advanced science and cutting edge S & T knowledge, a robust program with ready funds and direction must be undertaken. For the purpose, scholarships, grants-in-aid and other forms of incentives shall be provided to deserving science students, young scientists, and specially gifted young Filipinos.

SECTION 2. A Special Program on Advanced Science and Cutting Edge Technology is hereby created. The program shall be a scholarship program specifically to support education in advanced science and cutting edge courses including but not limited to such areas as biochemistry; mechatronics engineering; metallurgical and mining science; physics; engineering; and plant science.

The Special Program on Advanced Science and Cutting Edge Technology is a ten-year program. It shall be managed and implemented by the Department of Science and Technology in cooperation with the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The program shall endeavour to attract the most capable and highly qualified high school graduates and graduate students. The beneficiaries of the Program shall be required to render at least eighteen (18) months of government service, either in line agencies or in pedagogy and research in state universities and colleges (SUCs) or public secondary institutions.

SECTION 3. The amount of one hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated annually for the next seven (7) years and it shall be sourced from the earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The scholarships shall be implemented the school year after this Act is adopted.

SECTION 4. The DOST in consultation and coordination with concerned stakeholders and various agencies shall promulgate within thirty (30) days from the

effectivity of this Act the relevant implementing rules and regulations. Necessarily, the IRR must contain the following:

- a. Competitiveness and merit should be the premier considerations in the selection of the scholars;
- b. Massive information dissemination must be undertaken to attract the most number of applicants;
- c. Transparency must be observed in the entire implementation of the program;
- d. Initially, the DOST must specify the ten-most needed advanced science and cutting edge technology courses;
- e. The scholarship shall cover tuition and miscellaneous expenses and reasonable allowance that covers medical insurance and subsistence/living assistance.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,