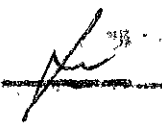


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
10 JUL 26 P4 51
RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. No. 2057

Introduced by Senator EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Thousands of Filipino students have acquired advanced degrees and specialized trainings in foreign countries through various scholarship grants either of local or foreign funding. While these local and overseas scholarship programs have produced a sizeable number of high-level professionals for the country, these programs have also resulted in a significant brain drain for our country. Moreover, some of the returning scholars have not found the opportunity for the maximum utilization of newly acquired knowledge and training. As a result, many of them leave the country in search of greener pastures abroad.

It is imperative that the Philippines should devise a program for overseas education and training for the brightest and most promising Filipinos who are already employed (or self-employed) in a branch of science or technology along identified priority areas. Such a program shall affect the pooling together of all foreign and local (public or private) sponsorship intended for further education, enrichment and training of exceptionally able and highly motivated and employed Filipinos.


The proposed legislation endeavors to provide the Philippines a continuing supply of highly trained leaders for industry, research and academe. Under the bill, the maximum utilization of returning talents will be coordinated under a single governing body where all scholarships under foreign and local sponsorship are pooled together.

Approval of the bill is, thus earnestly requested.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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AN ACT
CREATING AN ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This bill shall be known as "*The Pensionado Act of*
2 *2010.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.*** - Human resources development is essential for
5 economic development and progress. In the pursuit of economic development and
6 progress, the state shall give priority to the creation of a critical mass of elite professionals
7 who shall take the lead in harnessing science, technology and related disciplines towards
8 accelerating the productivity of the country's human resources.

9 Consonant with this trust, it is hereby declared a policy of the state to devise a
10 program for exceptionally able and highly motivated employees, preferably age 30-40,
11 from the government, the private sector and/or the self-employed to undertake advanced
12 studies in a branch of science, technology or related fields of learning on which depends
13 the development and progress of the country. As such, it shall provide for fellowships to
14 enable them to pursue advanced studies or research in their field of expertise.

15 The state shall develop a critical mass of first-rate specialist in various disciplines
16 and areas of specializations vital to national development to form a collective national
17 "think tank who shall place continuously their knowledge and skills at the service of the
18 nation, be it in industry, the academe or the highest policy-making levels of government,

1 with the government taking the lead in harnessing their knowledge and skills for the
2 greatest good of the country.

3
4 **SEC 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are
5 hereunder defined accordingly:

- 6 a. **“Post-graduate”** - a formal degree course program of training/research
7 requiring at least a Master’s Degree for entry; a student pursuing such program;
8 b. **“Advanced studies”** - a post-graduate problem-oriented program of studies
9 and/or research, not necessarily leading to a degree, undertaken for further
10 specialization or advanced knowledge in a specific field of a study, or to
11 acquire specialized knowledge and/or skills in a particular area of science or
12 technology;
13 c. **“Pensionado”** - a Filipino citizen selected and supported by the Philippines
14 government under this program to undertake advanced studies in selected
15 institutions of higher learning or recognized research centers, in fields relevant
16 to the officially declared priority areas for development.

17
18 **SEC. 4. Establishment of a Program.** - There shall be established under the
19 Commission on Higher Education, hereafter referred to as CHED, in coordination with the
20 non-government organizations (NGOs), the private sector and other government agencies,
21 namely, the National Economic and Development authority (NEDA), the Department of
22 Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the
23 Department of Education (DepED), fellowship program to be called as the “Pensionado
24 Program” for Filipinos employed in the government and the private sectors and those who
25 are self-employed.

26 The Program shall pool together all fellowships, scholarships, training grants
27 sponsored or extended by foreign government, agencies and other bodies, as well as by
28 local agencies and organizations, whether public or private, intended for advanced studies
29 in international centers of advanced learning, scholarship and research.

30
31 **SEC. 5. Establishment of a National Secretariat; Functions and Composition** -
32 There shall be established a National Secretariat, hereafter referred to as the Secretariat,
33 with the following functions:

- 34 1. To identify, and assists in negotiations with, sponsors (foreign and local, public
35 and private) of fellowships, scholarships and grants;

- 1 2. To provide assistance to the selection Panel in accomplishing its work;
- 2 3. To provide the Pensionados continuing assistance from the time of selection
- 3 thru the time of their return to the country, including assistance for the
- 4 productive utilization of their newly-gained expertise;
- 5 4. To serve as the administrative arm of the government for the program;
- 6 5. In general, to promulgate and implement the policies and guidelines governing
- 7 the Program.

8

9 The National Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Officer, with the rank

10 of Assistant secretary, to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines

11 upon the recommendation of the CHED. Members of the Secretariat shall consist of

12 representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA),

13 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and technology (DOST)

14 and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). These representatives shall be

15 seconded to the Secretariat for a period of one year, subject to renewal every year. Service

16 rendered thereafter shall be considered as service in their prospective agencies and shall be

17 considered as part of their performance for promotions purposes.

18

19 **SEC. 6. *Number of Pensionados and Length of Grant.*** - There shall be selected

20 twenty-four (24) fellows annually - three (3) fellows for each priority discipline/industry

21 field of the eight (8) vital disciplines or areas of specializations identified by the CHED in

22 consultation with the NEDA as frontiers or new areas essential for pushing the economic

23 and social development thrusts of the country. The scholarship shall be for one year only.

24

25 **SEC. 7. *Selection Process.*** - There shall be a Selection Panel under the Secretariat

26 consisting of three (3) university presidents and two (2) eminent members from the

27 academe to be appointed by the CHED. They shall serve on a staggered basis for the

28 purposes of continuity and consistency, each for a term of three (3) years. The Selection

29 Panel shall make the final selection of the Pensionados from among the nominees from the

30 academe, industry and research centers. The integrity and objectives of the program are

31 paramount considerations for the panel in making the selection.

32

33 **SEC. 8. *Qualifications.*** - In order to qualify for the Fellowship Program, the

34 applicant must be:

- 35 a. A Filipino citizen;

- 1 b. Gainfully employed;
- 2 c. A college degree graduate, with honors;
- 3 d. With demonstrated leadership and proven exceptional performance in his/her
- 4 present work;
- 5 e. Enthusiastic in undergoing further training;
- 6 f. Willing to sign a contract requiring him/her to return to his/her job or in another
- 7 capacity after one year of training.

8

9 **SEC. 9. *Place of Study*** - The Pensionados shall be sent to a foreign country well-
10 known for its advanced stage in particular discipline or area of specialization. Training and
11 education may be an academic institution, research and development center (R&D) or a
12 major industrial establishment with an R&D program. It may or may not lead to an
13 advanced academic degree.

14

15 **SEC. 10. *Assistance to Grantees*** - The Pensionado is entitled to the following
16 benefits:

- 17 a. One year leave with pay, including allowances and other benefits;
- 18 b. One economy round -trip air fare to and from the host country plus other travel
- 19 expenses required for foreign travel;
- 20 c. Clothing allowance to be determined by the Secretariat;
- 21 d. Monthly stipend while on study abroad, of such amount to be determined by the
- 22 Secretariat;
- 23 e. Books/instructional Material/Research allowance of such amount to be
- 24 determined by the Secretariat;
- 25 f. Health, Travel and Insurance fees of such amount to be determined by the
- 26 Secretariat.

27

28 **SEC. 11. *Program Funding*** - The cost of each fellowship grant shall be shared by
29 the Pensionado's employer and the National Government. The employer pays the salary,
30 allowances and other benefits due the Fellow as employed during one year period of
31 advanced studies overseas while the National Government, thru the program, shall be
32 responsible for items No. b, c, d, e, and f as enumerated in Section 10

33 The National Government may also negotiate bilateral arrangements with hosts
34 governments, host universities, research institutions and corporations to enable our
35 scholars to stay abroad and continue their studies or training at a minimal cost to the

1 National Government. A sharing program can be established where the host government,
2 host-universities, research institutions and corporations can pick up part of the expenses of
3 the scholars while he is abroad.
4

5 **SEC. 12. *Service Obligation*** - Immediately upon completion of the studies or
6 training, a fellow shall be required to return to his job or in another capacity approved by
7 the Secretariat and serve on a full-time basis for a minimum period equivalent to twice the
8 period covered by the fellowship grant. In addition, the scholar shall be required to hold
9 seminars or training sessions for employees from the government and the private sectors
10 on topics related to the course or training he has completed. Any recipient of the program
11 who has not completed his course shall reimburse the Fellowship the grant received or
12 render service to the sponsoring agency or company for a period equivalent to the period
13 covered by the fellowship grant. Any Pensionado who violates the service obligation
14 imposed under this section shall reimburse the sponsoring agency or company and the
15 National Government of the Fund assistance received under this act in full or in part as the
16 case may be.
17

18 **SEC. 13. *Mechanism for Utilization of Returned Fellows*** - There shall be
19 established and developed a National Network of Specialized Institutes for Advanced
20 studies in universities selected by CHED in consultation with the DOST and other
21 appropriate agencies to be determined by the Secretariat to provide returned scholars an
22 office, laboratory, library and conference facilities for their continuing activities. The
23 Institute shall also serve as a place for an Exchange Program and Collaborative research
24 among local and international scientist and scholars in priority areas of research and
25 development.

26 The National Government may, thru CHED and/or the National Secretariat,
27 negotiate bilateral agreements with foreign government, universities, research institutions
28 and corporations, public and private, to effect exchange of scholars and scientists for
29 collaborative advanced studies, as well as to equip the Institute for purposes of benefit to
30 the cause of scholarly or scientific advancement and national development.

31 A sharing program may be established whereby the host government / university /
32 institution / corporation can pick up part of the expenses of the Fellow in pursuit of his/her
33 Fellowship.
34

1 **SEC. 14. Appropriations** - The amount necessary to carry out the initial
2 implementation of this Act shall be drawn from the savings of the National Government.
3 Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of the program shall be
4 included in the General Appropriations Act. The Program shall receive 2% from the share
5 of the DOST and 1% from the share of the Philippine Youth Commission in the Bases
6 Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) proceeds.

7
8 **SEC. 15. Transfer of other fellowship, scholarship and training grants** - All
9 foreign and locally sponsored fellowship, scholarship and training grants will be
10 transferred to the program for coordination. With respect to government employees who
11 may be affected by the transfer, the pertinent rules and regulations of the Civil Service
12 commission (CSC) shall apply.

13
14 **SEC. 16. Rules and Regulations** - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of
15 this Act, the Secretariat shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of the provisions thereof.

17
18 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or
19 portions thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20
21 **SEC. 18. Separability Clause** - In the event any of the provisions of this Act is
22 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such
23 declaration.

24
25 **SEC. 19. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
27 circulation.

28
29 **Approved,**