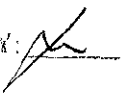


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SENATE

S.B. No. 2949

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Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

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### EXPLANATORY

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 20 provides that:

SEC. 20. The State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments.

Aside from being a country rich in cultural heritage and abundant natural resources, the Philippines has also been blessed with innovative human resources. All over the world, countless Filipinos have won and have continually been recognized for their ingenuity. But sad to say, we are not giving due recognition to our country's bright minds due to lack of a solid program to recognize their achievements in the field of research and development here in our country. This has forced our inventors and innovators to look elsewhere to gain recognition resulting in our inventions being claimed by the foreign countries which recognized them.

There is an urgent need, therefore, to establish a sustainable recognition program that will encourage our inventors and innovators to develop new products and technologies that can be produced and exported all over the world. This not only translates in helping our ailing economy, but would once again give our local minds their due for their countless achievements in the field of research and development.


This proposed measure seeks to mandate the Department of Trade and Industry to establish a National Innovation Prizes Board which shall spearhead a program to solicit participation from various sectors of our country, encourage a competitive research and development drive and recognize and reward the best new inventions and innovations which we can truly call authentic Filipino.

Due to the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage into law of this measure is earnestly requested.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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SENATE  
S.B. No. 2949

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Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT**  
**TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO AWARD INNOVATION PRIZES TO**  
**INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES FOR RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING**  
**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Pinoy  
2 Innoventor Act of 2011.”  
3

4           **SECTION 2. Definitions.** –The purposes of this Act the term:  
5

6           A. ADMINISTERING ENTITY – means an entity with which the Secretary  
7 enters into an agreement under Section 11.  
8

9           B. COMPETITION – means a competition for an innovation prize under  
10 the program described in Section 5.  
11

12           C. INNOVATION PRIZE – means a prize awarded to a participant who  
13 wins a competition.  
14

15           D. PARTICIPANT – means an individual or entity that participates in a  
16 competition.  
17

18           E. SECRETARY – means the Secretary of Trade and Industry.  
19

20           **SECTION 3. National Innovation Prizes Board.** – The Secretary shall  
21 establish in the Department of Trade and Industry a National Innovation Prizes  
22 Board (referred to in this Act as the “Board”). The Board shall be composed of  
23 noted individuals, appointed by the Secretary, from both public and private sector  
24 whose qualification shall be determined by the Secretary to carry out the  
25 purposes of this Act. The term of each member shall be no more than three  
26 years.  
27

28           **SECTION 4. Purposes.** – The purposes of the Board are as follows:  
29

30           A. To develop and administer the program described in Section 5.  
31

32           B. To select the research topics for competitions.

1  
2 C. To establish the rules of the competitions and the criteria for winning  
3 innovation prizes.

4  
5 D. To determine the amount of the innovation prize for each competition.

6  
7 E. To certify the winners of the competitions.

8  
9 F. To determine the annual funding requirement for each competition.

10  
11 **SECTION 5. *Innovation Prizes Program.*** – The board shall carry out a  
12 program of competitions to award innovation prizes to eligible individuals and  
13 entities to advance the research, development, and commercial application of  
14 innovative technologies.

15  
16 **SECTION 6. *Eligible Individuals or Entities.*** – An "eligible individual or  
17 entity" is an individual, a university, or a small or large business that complies  
18 with the requirements of paragraph (2).

19  
20 **SECTION 7. *Minimum Requirements for Eligibility.*** – An eligible  
21 individual or entity:

22  
23 A. shall have complied with such eligibility requirements for participation in  
24 a competition as the Board may establish;

25  
26 B. in the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a  
27 primary place of business in the Philippines;

28  
29 C. in the case of an individual, whether participating in the program singly  
30 or in a group, shall be a citizen of, 01 an alien lawfully admitted for  
31 permanent residence in, the Philippines; and

32  
33 D. may not be-

34  
35 1. a government entity, such as a government funded research and  
36 development center or a government-owned, contractor-operated  
37 laboratory;

38  
39 2. an entity in which a member of the board has interest in;

40  
41 3. a relative of the member of the board within fourth degree of  
42 consanguinity;

43  
44 4. a public official or employee acting within the scope of his office  
45 or employment; or

46  
47 5. a public official or employee of a national laboratory acting within  
48 the scope of his office or employment.

49  
50 **SECTION 8. *Development of the Program.*** – Not later than 120 days  
51 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and  
52 submit to the appropriate committees in the Senate and the House of  
53 Representatives a plan for implementing the program described in Section 5 that  
54 includes:

55  
56 A. a description of how the research topics for competitions and the  
57 criteria for awarding the innovation prizes will be determined;

1 B. the terms and conditions of the competitions;

2  
3 C. the time frame for the award of innovation prizes; and

4  
5 D. a description of the plans of the Secretary to partner with nonprofit  
6 organizations or government agencies to sponsor competitions or to  
7 outsource administration of competitions to nonprofit organizations under  
8 Section 11.

9  
10 **SECTION 9. Awards.** – The Board shall determine the amount of each  
11 innovation prize for each competition and may elect to award only a first place  
12 prize or to award first, second, and third place prizes.

13  
14 **SECTION 10. Advertising.** – The Board shall advertise each competition  
15 widely to encourage broad participation in each competition, including by  
16 individuals, universities, and large and small businesses (including businesses  
17 owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons). The  
18 advertisements shall include, among other information, the subject of the  
19 competition, the duration of the competition, the eligibility requirements for  
20 participation in the Competition, the process for participants to register for the  
21 competition, the amount of the innovation prize, and the criteria for awarding the  
22 innovation prize.

23  
24 **SECTION 11. Administering Competitions.** – The Board may enter into  
25 an agreement with a private, nonprofit organization to administer competitions.  
26 The duties of the administering entity under the agreement shall include:

27  
28 A. advertising competitions and the results of competitions;

29  
30 B. raising funds from private entities and individuals to pay for  
31 administrative costs of competitions and to contribute to cash innovation  
32 prizes;

33  
34 C. working with the Board to develop the criteria for selecting winners in  
35 competitions, based on goals provided by the Secretary;

36  
37 D. determining, in consultation with the Board, the appropriate amount of  
38 each innovation prize to be awarded;

39  
40 E. selecting judges for competitions using criteria developed in  
41 consultation with the Board; and

42  
43 F. preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of the intellectual  
44 property, trade secrets, and confidential business information of  
45 participants.

46  
47 **SECTION 12. Funding.** – Innovation prizes awarded under the program  
48 described in subsection (a) shall consist of:

49  
50 A. funds authorized to be appropriated under section 20; and

51  
52 B. any funds raised by the administering entity under Section 11(B).

53  
54 C. any other funds which may be accepted by the Secretary from other  
55 government agencies for innovation prizes.

56

1           **SECTION 13. *Funds from Other Entities.*** – The Board is authorized to  
2 enter into agreements with other entities, including corporations, nonprofit  
3 organizations, and other government agencies, to offer joint innovation prizes if:

4  
5           A. the joint innovation prize supports the purposes of this Act;

6  
7           B. the entity offering additional funds agrees to deposit the funds into a  
8 designated escrow account; and

9  
10          C. the Board retains full authority over the competition and the awarding of  
11 the cash innovation prizes.  
12

13  
14           **SECTION 14. *Prohibition on Special Consideration.*** – The Secretary  
15 may not give any special consideration to any private sector entity or individual in  
16 return for a donation to the administering entity to fund a competition.  
17

18           **SECTION 15. *Announcement of Prizes Contingent on Funding.*** – The  
19 Secretary may not advertise or publish any prize until all the funds necessary to  
20 pay the innovation prize have been appropriated or committed in writing.  
21

22           **SECTION 16. *Waiver of Liability.*** – The Secretary may require  
23 participants to waive claims against the government and the administering entity  
24 (except claims for willful misconduct) for any injury, death, damage, or loss of  
25 property, revenue, or profits arising from participation in a competition.  
26

27           The Secretary may not require a participant to waive claims against the  
28 administering entity arising out of the unauthorized use or disclosure by the  
29 administering entity of the intellectual property, trade secrets, or confidential  
30 business information of the participant.  
31

32           **SECTION 17. *Insurance.*** – The Secretary may require liability insurance  
33 or demonstrate financial responsibility, in amounts determined by the Secretary,  
34 for claims by:

35           A. a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss  
36 resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation in a  
37 competition; and  
38

39           B. the government for damage or loss to government property resulting  
40 from participation in a competition.  
41

42           **SECTION 18. *Intellectual Property.*** – The intellectual property of  
43 participants in the competitions shall be protected. The Board shall provide for  
44 assistance in securing the intellectual property rights for qualified participants.  
45 The Board shall also provide for a convenient way for participants to ascertain  
46 whether there are any preexisting intellectual property rights that conflict with  
47 theirs.  
48

49           **SECTION 19. *Report.*** – Not later than one year after the date of the  
50 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the  
51 appropriate committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives a report  
52 describing the activities of the program described in Section 5, including:  
53

54           A. a description of the methods used to select the research topics of  
55 competitions and the amounts of the innovation prizes;  
56  
57

1 B. a discussion of the features of competitions that contribute to the  
2 success or lack of success of the competitions;

3  
4 C. the number of participants involved in the competitions;

5  
6 D. the amount of private funds contributed to the program and the sources  
7 of such funds;

8  
9 E. the effect of the program on public awareness of innovation; and

10  
11 F. the effect of the program on the public image of the Department of  
12 Trade and Industry.

13  
14 **SECTION 20. Appropriations.** – To carry out the provisions of this Act,  
15 such amount as hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from  
16 the National Treasury.

17  
18 **SECTION 21. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof, is  
19 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not  
20 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

21  
22 **SECTION 22. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or  
23 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or  
24 regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby  
25 repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

26  
27 **SECTION 23. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
28 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

29  
30 *Approved,*

31