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SENATE

S. B. NO. **3074**

RECORDED BY 

Introduced by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile

Explanatory Note

With the passage of Republic Act No. 7687 or the Science Scholarship Act in 1994, the government started a scholarship program for poor but deserving Filipino students who wish to take up science related technical courses with the hope of producing world class and globally competitive Filipino scientists.

However, 10 years after the program was first implemented scientific manpower in the country has remained inadequate. The Philippines only has 165 personnel per million population in 2005 a far cry from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended standard of 380 science and technology personnel per million population. In addition, recent studies of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Science Education Institute (SEI) indicated that science and technology-trained personnel migrate to find work abroad, making it even more imperative to train and produce a new batch of personnel.

To make the law responsive to the needs of the country, this bill proposes to expand and accelerate the Science and Technology Scholarship program by increasing the annual appropriations for the Science and Technology Scholarship Fund and augmenting it with funds sourced from the income of the Philippine Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

Under the current law, applicants who are allowed to take the DOST scholarship qualifying exams are limited only to students in the top 5 percent of the graduating class. This proposed measure allows even regular graduates who show exemplary performance in science and mathematics to apply for the program.

Advances and innovations brought about by science and technology have contributed a great deal in economic development all over the world and the only way for Filipinos to be competitive is by investing in our people and making education available and accessible especially to poor and deserving individuals.

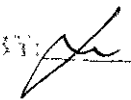
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator

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AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7687 (AS AMENDED BY R.A 8248) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "Science and Technology Scholarship Program Act of 2011".

Section 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7687, otherwise known as the Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994 (as amended by RA 8248), is hereby further amended by adding the following provisions:

Section 3. Section 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Science and Technology Scholarship Fund. *There is* hereby created a Science and Technology Scholarship Fund, hereinafter known as the Fund, to be administered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is hereby amended as follows:

"THE FUND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DOST THROUGH SCIENCE EDUCATION INSTITUTE. SUCH FUND SHALL NOT BE COVERED BY LAWS, CIRCULARS, AND ORDERS ON REVERSION OF FUNDS TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY SINCE IT WILL BE USED TO FINANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED BUT DESERVING STUDENTS."

Section 4. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Appropriations. [The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current Fiscal Year Appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology.]

In order to provide funds necessary for the continuous implementation of the program for every year following the initial implementation, the budget of the DOST shall be increased in the amount of Sixty million pesos (P60Million) per year until it eventually reaches the amount of Three hundred million pesos (P300Million) to sustain the recipients of the scholarship during the duration of study.

"AUGMENTATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FROM THE GAA SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (P15MILLION) PER MONTH WHICH SUM SHALL BE GENERATED FROM ITS NET INCOME; PROVIDED

THAT SUCH AMOUNT SHALL BE STRICTLY USED TO SUBSIDIZE THE BENEFICIARIES' EXPENSES WHILE STUDYING UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HEREIN PROVIDED. FURTHER, ALL INTERESTS AND INCOME EARNED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND SHALL AUTOMATICALLY FORM PART OF THE FUND: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH EARNINGS SHALL BE USED SOLELY FOR SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS.”

Section 5. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Qualifications. In order to qualify for the scholarship program, the applicant, must be:

- a) a member of the top five percent (5%) of the high school graduating class, regardless of gender, religion and cultural affiliation;
- b) a resident of the municipality for the last four (4) years prior to availing of the scholarship, as attested by the school records; and
- c) of good moral character and in good health.

“QUALIFICATIONS – IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (TECHNICAL AND BACCALAUREATE), THE APPLICANT MUST SATISFY ALL THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER RA 7687. IN ADDITION, THE APPLICANT MUST BE:

A) A GRADUATE FROM A SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL OR SPECIAL SCIENCE CLASS OR SCIENCE ORIENTED HIGH SCHOOL REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RELIGION AND CULTURAL AFFILIATION; OR, A MEMBER OF THE TOP FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RELIGION AND CULTURAL AFFILIATION;

B) A RESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY FOR THE LAST FOUR (4) YEARS PRIOR TO AVAILING OF THE SCHOLARSHIP, AS ATTESTED BY THE SCHOOL RECORDS;

C) OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AND IN GOOD HEALTH,

D) QUALIFY IN THE DOST-SEI SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION.”

Section 6. Section 11 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 11. Place of Study in the Country. The recipient of the scholarship privileges under this Act shall be required to pursue their degree program and/or the vocational, technical and other courses specified under this Act at any academic or training institutions duly accredited by the DECS and the DOST and in private schools accredited by Federation of Accrediting Agencies in the Philippines.

“THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PURSUE THEIR TECHNICAL, UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND HIGH-END SPECIALIZED TRAININGS IN STATE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES WITH HIGH QUALITY TRAINING STANDARDS AND THOSE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IDENTIFIED AS CHED CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE, DOST RECOGNIZED R & D INSTITUTIONS AND IN NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INSTITUTIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED UNDER SEC. 15 OF THE SAME ACT.”

Section 7. Section 15 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 15. Advisory Committee. There is hereby created a committee composed of the Secretary of Science and Technology as Chairman, and the Secretaries or Heads of the following departments or agencies or their chosen representatives as members: [Education, Culture and Sports] COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION; Budget and Management; Agriculture; Trade and Industry; Interior and Local Government; Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority; and two (2) representatives from the private sector one (1) of whom shall come from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and one (1) from other sectors.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within 90 days from its approval.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,