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S E N A T E

S. No. 3400

*Prepared by the Committees on Science and Technology; Education, Arts and Culture;
Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance
with Senators Angara, Enrile, Villar, Recto and Drilon as authors thereof*

AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE AND
MATHEMATICS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND
ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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2
3 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This act shall be known as the “S&T Scholarships with
4 Teaching Incentives Act of 2012.”
5

6 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Science, technology and engineering are essential for
7 national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development,
8 invention, innovation and their utilization. Priority shall also be given to science and technology
9 education, training and services.
10

11 In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the
12 development of the country's science and technology manpower in line with economic
13 development and to provide the capability required in the areas of research, development,

1 innovation as well as their utilization. As such, it is important that the State provide for quality
2 science and mathematics teachers at the secondary level, which would encourage more students
3 to pursue careers in science and technology.
4

5 Therefore, the State shall provide for scholarships to deserving science students and other
6 specially-gifted citizens to enable them to pursue higher education or training in areas of science,
7 technology and engineering, and to provide incentives for them to become secondary school
8 teachers, especially in their home regions.
9

10 **SEC. 3. *General Objectives.*** – To carry out the measure, this Act shall strengthen the
11 country's science and technology education by fast tracking graduates in the sciences,
12 mathematics, and engineering who shall teach science and mathematics subjects in secondary
13 schools throughout the country. Towards this end, scholarships shall be provided to finance the
14 education of talented and deserving students in their third year of college, and pursuing a degree
15 or training in areas of science and technology, and to provide incentives for them to pursue a
16 career in teaching in high schools, especially in their home regions.
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19 **Chapter II. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA** 20

21 **SEC. 4. *Scholarship Program.*** - This Act builds on the current Science and Technology
22 Scholarships offered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through its Science
23 Education Institute (SEI), as provided for in Republic Act No. 7687, otherwise known as the
24 "Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994." It envisions a fast tracking of more science,
25 technology, and engineering graduates by offering scholarships to deserving students in these
26 courses in their third year of undergraduate study, based on their competitiveness and merit. It
27 also offers additional incentives to attract the graduates of this scholarship program into teaching
28 science, mathematics and technology courses in a public or private high school.
29

30 **SEC. 5. *Eligibility.*** – The following are qualifications for the scholarship with teaching
31 incentive. Applicants must:
32

- 33 • Be a Filipino citizen;
- 34 • Be a regular third-year college student at the time of award;
- 35 • Be currently enrolled in any of the state universities or colleges, or in private
36 universities, especially in Commission on Higher Education (CHED)-
37 compliant programs, under any of the identified priority S&T courses;
- 38 • Have a general weighted average (GWA) of 83% or better during their first
39 and second year of college;
- 40 • Qualify in the Junior-Level Science Scholarship Examination; and

1
2 **SEC. 6. Award Amounts.** – Recipients are entitled to an annual award for full-time study
3 equal to the complete financial assistance package offered under R.A. 7687, for students
4 attending an approved undergraduate program at quality schools, such as CHED compliant
5 programs and DOST Network Institutions, public or private, with minimum slots awarded in
6 private schools to off-set differences in tuition costs.

7
8 **SEC. 7. Duration.** – Recipients shall be entitled to an award for the last two years of
9 undergraduate study, or the last three years for those enrolled in five-year courses such as
10 engineering, while matriculating in an approved program.

11
12 **SEC. 8. Approved Courses and Priority Programs.** – Recipients shall pursue degrees in
13 science, technology and engineering, as identified and approved by the DOST as priority S&T
14 courses. Applicants who are currently enrolled under such courses under the CHED-compliant
15 programs will be given priority.

16
17 **SEC. 9. Terms and Conditions.** – Applicants for the scholarships must execute a service
18 contract in which they:

- 19
20 • Agree to teach as their return of service (ROS);
21 • Agree to any of the approved return of service conditions; and
22 • Agree to repay the amounts disbursed plus interest pursuant to the terms of
23 their service contract.

24
25 Failure to comply with the terms of the service contract will result in the full repayment
26 (plus penalties, if applicable) of all award monies received within a specified time limit.

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29 **Chapter III. RETURN OF SERVICE CONDITIONS AND INCENTIVES**

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31 **SEC. 10. Return of Service Conditions.** – Award recipients must teach full-time high
32 school subject(s) in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics; or Information Technology or
33 Agricultural, Aquaculture or Fisheries Technology, both in the university and technical-
34 vocational tracks in the secondary education curriculum, for a minimum of two years, in a public
35 or private high school.

36
37 **SEC. 11. Incentives Schemes.** – The following are incentives granted to qualified
38 graduates who shall be hired to teach at a public or private high school for a minimum of two
39 years. They shall be entitled to:
40

- 1 • A starting salary grade equivalent to that of a Special Science Teacher I in the
2 Philippine Science High School System;
3 • Priority for job placement in any high school, public or private, of his/her choice
4 within the country, with first priority in his/her home province;
5 • A one-time relocation allowance should he/she be assigned in a place other than
6 the permanent residence;
7 • Scholarships in identified teacher education institutes for Science Education
8 courses; and
9 • Pass the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) within five years of hiring.

10
11 Recipients of the four- or five-year S&T Undergraduate Scholarship of DOST-SEI under
12 R.A. No. 7687 may also opt to teach full-time the courses identified in Section 10 of this Act, for
13 a minimum of two years at a public or private high school in their home region.
14

15 **SEC. 12. *Teacher Training.*** – The Philippine Normal University (PNU), being the
16 National Center for Teacher Education per Republic Act No. 9647, otherwise known as
17 “Philippine Normal University Modernization Act of 2009” and its network of universities in
18 teacher education like the National Network of Normal Schools (3NS), as well as CHED-
19 compliant programs in Teacher Education and centers for teacher training recognized by CHED
20 and DepEd, are hereby tasked to provide training for hired teachers under this program. For this
21 purpose, one thousand (1,000) scholarships are made available every year to these hired teachers
22 to be sourced from the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF), as administered by
23 CHED.
24
25

26 **Chapter IV. OPTIONS FOR OTHER SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING,
27 AND MATHEMATICS GRADUATES**
28

29 **SEC. 13. *Eligibility of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)***
30 ***Graduates.*** – Other STEM graduates and professionals, who are not recipients of the scholarship
31 program provided for in this Act, may also apply to teach science, mathematics, or technology
32 subjects in a public or private high school. Applicants must:
33

- 34 • Be a Filipino citizen;
35 • Must have graduated with a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
36 degree, with a GWA of 83% or better from a reputable university;
37 • Must be at least 40 years of age at the time of application; and
38 • Not have a service obligation under another program in conflict with DOST-
39 SEI obligations.
40

1 Qualified graduates and professionals shall also be entitled to teacher training programs
2 in any teacher education institution, as specified in Section 12 of this Act, to prepare them into
3 full-time teaching in a public or private high school in their home region.
4

5 6 **Chapter V. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

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8 **SEC. 14. *Science Education Institute (SEI).*** – The DOST-SEI shall be the main
9 implementing agency of the provisions in this Act. The SEI shall be responsible for evaluation,
10 award-giving, and monitoring of scholarship grants and awardees. The Institute is also tasked
11 with coordinating with other relevant agencies in the fulfillment of the goals of this Act.
12

13 **SEC. 15. *Department of Education (DepEd).*** – The DepEd is hereby tasked to ensure
14 job placement and hiring of qualified graduates under this program as secondary school teachers
15 in science, mathematics, and related technology courses, and to ensure that these teachers are
16 hired at Special Science Teacher salary grade levels, as specified in this Act. The Department is
17 also tasked with the evaluation and monitoring of hired teachers under this program.
18

19 For this purpose, the Department shall create new contractual positions in public high
20 schools to ensure placement of the qualified teachers under this program. It shall also establish a
21 special fund that private high schools may tap to meet the required salary upgrade of these hired
22 teachers.
23

24 25 **Chapter VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

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27 **SEC. 16. *Review and Monitoring.*** – The DepEd, CHED, and DOST shall report to the
28 President and Congress after the first three years, and annually thereafter, on the implementation
29 of the provisions of this Act and submit recommendations for its improvement.
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31 The Departments are also tasked to monitor the hiring in high schools of scholars under
32 this program, and to undertake such tracer studies and include these in the annual reports.
33

34 **SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from approval
35 of this Act, the DOST and the DepEd shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively
36 implement the provisions of this Act.
37

38 **SEC. 18. *Appropriations Clause.*** – An additional amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos
39 (Php200,000,000.00) annually is hereby appropriated for the two-year scholarships of an
40 additional 1,500 students per year under the DOST-SEI S&T Undergraduate Scholarship

1 Program, to be sourced from the earnings of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
2 (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), for the next seven years, or
3 until 10,000 new teachers have been hired under this program.
4

5 In order to provide the necessary funds for the new contractual positions created under
6 this Act, an amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php200,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to
7 the DepEd, beginning two years from the effectivity of this Act, and for ten years thereafter, for
8 the upgraded salaries of hired teachers under this program.
9

10 **SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
12 valid and subsisting.
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14 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and
15 administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified
16 accordingly.
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18 **SEC. 21. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) national newspapers of general
20 circulation.
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24 ***Approved,***