

SENATE
S. No. 1891

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Sections 1 and 2, para. 1 provides:

SEC. 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SEC. 2. The State shall:

(1) Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

The government of the United States has already recognized the importance of improving the quality of education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

There were numerous American studies showing that STEM-related innovations have increased more than half of the country's economic growth over the past half century.

President Barack Obama has established the goal for the United States to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020, which will require the Federal Government to work with education partners to improve the quality of STEM education at all levels to help increase the number of well-prepared graduates with STEM degrees by one-third over the next 10 years, resulting in an additional one million graduates with STEM degrees.¹

Moreover, President Obama has called for recruiting more teachers and mentors in the STEM fields to better engage students, particularly young women and minorities, and encourage them to pursue degrees and careers in the STEM fields so the United States can maintain its competitiveness in the global economy.²

¹ <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr2587ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr2587ih.pdf>.

² *Id.*

The number of STEM-related jobs reportedly grew three times as fast as non-STEM-related jobs in the United States during the past 10 years and is forecast to grow twice as fast over the next decade.³

Hence, with the help of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Education, this bill seeks to provide some of the country's government agencies and employees with opportunities to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities in elementary and secondary schools. It would be very beneficial for the students to start early in focusing on these very important subjects.

ass.
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

³ *Id.*

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1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO
3 SUPPORT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)
4 ACTIVITIES IN CLASSROOMS

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Planting STEM in the
6 Classroom Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Providing Volunteer Opportunities for Government Employees Engaged In*
8 *STEM Activities.* – The Civil Service Commission, in consultation with the Department of
9 Education, shall develop a policy to:

10 (1) increase volunteerism in STEM education activities by encouraging government
11 employees engaged in STEM activities, including scientists, engineers, and cybersecurity
12 specialists engaged in non-military activities, from government agencies and the government-
13 funded research and development centers supported by those agencies, to volunteer in STEM
14 education activities in elementary and secondary schools by providing administrative leave and
15 support for such employees to engage in such volunteerism; and

16 (2) support increased communication and partnerships between scientists and
17 engineers from government science agencies conducting non-military scientific research and
18 development, including scientists and engineers of the government-funded research and
19 development centers supported by those agencies, and elementary and secondary schools and
20 teachers through volunteerism in STEM education activities.

1 SECTION 3. *Outreach to Underrepresented Communities.* – Each government science
2 agency shall report to Congress the approaches that it will take to conduct outreach designed to
3 promote widespread public understanding of career opportunities in the STEM fields specific to
4 the workforce needs of that agency, including outreach to women, indigenous peoples, and
5 students from groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

6 SECTION 4. *Annual Report.* – Not later than 1 June 2014, and annually thereafter, the
7 Secretary of Education shall transmit a report to Congress detailing:

8 (1) the number of volunteers and volunteer hours resulting from this Act;

9 (2) the number of schools, teachers, and students engaged thereby; and

10 (3) the methods of outreach used under this Act to serve underrepresented
11 communities.

12 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
14 valid and subsisting.

15 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
17 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

18 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fldp