


SENATE
S. No. 404

'19 JUL 11 P4:18

11:56 AM


Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Research and development (R&D) is a crucial field in the science and technology as well as any other industries to allow the prospering of knowledge, productivity, innovation and competitiveness which are then translated into new products, services and processes relevant to various aspects of life. Basically, it plays a critical role in the development of the society.

The Constitution even stipulated the prime importance of R&D in the economic development of the nation. Article 14, Section 10 provides:

SEC. 10. Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life.

Researchers and relevant agencies in the Philippines aspire to make the country a home to high-end R&D. Although important, this field is considered underappreciated due to the bureaucratic processes that hamper the creative,

systematic and scientific efforts of the experts. According to a 2015 report published by the Department of Budget and Management, the country lags behind its neighboring Southeast Asian countries in terms of the number of professionals and scientists involved in R&D activities. Moreover, the low number of researchers in the country has partially resulted in fewer graduates in science and engineering and doctorate degree holders in science, engineering and technology where R&D usually flourishes.

With these in mind, this bill seeks to create the Research and Development Support Committee which will be under the Office of the President. It will be responsible for reviewing all regulations related to research and research institutions.¹




FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

Senator

¹ This was lifted from a bill filed by the late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the Sixteenth Congress, First Regular Session and is now refiled during the Eighteenth Congress in her honor.

SENATE
S. No. 404

'19 JUL 11 P4:18

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "Research and Development
2 Efficiency Act."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to ensure that
4 all efforts towards research and development shall be efficient and effective.

5 Sec. 3. *Research and Development Audit Committee.* – There shall be
6 established under the Office of the President a Research and Development Support
7 Committee (RDSC) who shall be responsible for reviewing regulations affecting
8 research and research universities and making recommendations on how to:

9 a. harmonize, streamline and eliminate duplicative regulations and reporting
10 requirements; and

11 b. minimize the regulatory burden on institutions of higher education
12 performing government funded research while maintaining accountability
13 for expenditures.

14 Sec. 4. *Stakeholder Input.* – In carrying out the responsibilities under Section
15 3, the RDSC shall take into account input and recommendations from stakeholders,
16 including national and local government funded researchers, institutions of higher

1 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations, nonprofit research
2 institutions, industry, including small businesses, government funded research and
3 development centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency,
4 and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

5 Sec. 5. *Report.* – Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
6 and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall report to the appropriate
7 committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives on what steps have been
8 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group established under
9 Section 3.

10 Sec. 6. *Term.* – The term of RDSC shall be three (3) years.

11 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
12 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
13 inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

14 Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,