


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 685

19 JUL 22 P 3:32

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III 

AN ACT
CREATING A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 10 of the Constitution provides that science and technology are essential for national development and progress, and accordingly mandates the State to give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization. Despite this constitutional fiat, the Philippines spends less than 0.14% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on Research and Development (R&D).¹ This is the lowest R&D expenditure in Southeast Asia; in contrast Singapore spends about 2% of its GDP on R&D.² The global average for R&D expenditures is 2.04% of GDP and for developing countries, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) suggests an R&D expenditure of at least 1% of GDP.³

¹Department of Science and Technology (DOST), "Compendium of Science & Technology Statistics," DOST PLANNING AND EVALUATION SERVICE, S&T RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION DIVISION (2015), page 14, available at: <http://www.dost.gov.ph/phocadownload/Downloads/Statistics/Compendium%20ST%20Statistics%20as%20of%20December%202015.pdf>

²Supra at Note 2.

³Jose Ramon G. Albert, Donald B. Yasay, and Raymond Gaspar, Examining Processes in Research and Development at the Department of Science and Technology (2015).

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), “[b]oth economic theory and empirical analysis underline the key role [R&D] in economic growth. . . R&D produces technology. . . to spur economic growth, address societal concerns such as health and environment, and ultimately improve living standards.”⁴ It is therefore essential that the Philippines increase its spending on R&D.

This bill requires the government to directly fund research and development proposals through the creation of a Research and Development Council (R&D Council), headed by the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), that will select proposals for government funding. In a sense, this bill is an expansion of the DOST’s current Grants-in-Aid Program, with the assurance of greater and steadier funding for any research proposals accepted by the R&D Council.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III

⁴ OECD, “Tax Incentives for Research and Development: Trends and Issues,” OECD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY (2002), available at: <http://www.oecd.org/science/inno/2498389.pdf>.

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 685

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
19 JUL 22 P 3:32

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**AN ACT CREATING A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 the "R&D
2 *Act of 2019.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2.** *Statement of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State, in
5 accordance with the Constitution, to promote research and development
6 in the Philippines, with the aims of boosting economic growth and
7 improving the quality of life in our country. Towards this end, the State
8 shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and
9 technological capabilities, and their application to the country's
10 productive systems and national life.

11
12 **SEC. 3.** *Research and Development Council.* — There is hereby
13 created a Research and Development Council (R&D Council) as an
14 attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
15 chaired by its Secretary, which shall have the primary responsibility of
16 determining which proposals should receive funding from the
17 government. The other members of the R&D Council are the Secretaries
18 of the Departments of Communications and Technology (DICT),
19 Education (DepEd), Health (DOH), National Defense (DND),

1 Agriculture (DA), Energy (DOE) and Trade and Industry (DTI), or their
2 duly authorized representatives and a representative from the private
3 sector to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the
4 R&D Council.

5
6 The R&D Council shall be supported by a technical support office,
7 which composition and staffing shall be provided in the Implementing
8 Rules and Regulations.

9
10 The R&D Council shall regularly publish the grants that it has
11 approved and the results of any completed research, unless such
12 information is deemed confidential. Such publications shall be furnished
13 to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee created pursuant to this
14 Act. Confidential information, while not published, must be made
15 available to the members of the Joint Congressional Oversight
16 Committee.

17
18 **SEC. 4. *Grant of Funding.*** — The government shall directly fund
19 research and development proposals submitted to it by Filipino citizens
20 or Filipino entities, at the discretion of the R&D Council. At the start of
21 every year, the R&D Council shall publish requirements and criteria for
22 proposals, specifying therefore priority areas depending on the urgent
23 needs and programs of the Philippine government. The R&D Council
24 shall accept proposals from all persons, whether publicly or privately-
25 employed, and from all entities, whether government or non-
26 government.

27
28 Funding shall either be a full grant or in the form of a subsidy.
29 Funding for a proposal shall be for a period of one (1) year but may be
30 extended at the discretion of the R&D Council. The R&D Council may
31 impose conditions on the grants, including but not limited to:

- 32
33 (1) Government ownership of any patentable invention that may
34 result from the research;
35
36 (2) Government share in any financial gains that may result from
37 the research; and

1
2 (3) Confidentiality, particularly when the research is undertaken
3 with access to sensitive government research and data.
4

5
6 **SEC. 5. *Monitoring and Reporting.*** — The R&D Council shall
7 require all funding recipients to submit periodic accomplishment reports
8 and shall, in turn, submit an annual status report to the Committees on
9 Science and Technology of both Houses of Congress.
10

11 **SEC. 6. *Data Banking.*** — The R&D Council shall create and
12 maintain a central databank of persons who have availed of the R&D
13 funding pursuant to this Act to serve as directory and guide in promoting
14 Filipino scientific research and development.
15

16 **SEC. 7. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** — There is
17 hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor
18 the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of
19 five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the
20 Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
21 respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by a Senator
22 and a Representative designated by the Senate President and the Speaker
23 of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Joint Congressional
24 Oversight Committee shall convene at least once a year.
25

26 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60)
27 calendar days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOST, in coordination
28 with the DICT, DepEd, DOH, DND, DA, DOE, and the DTI, shall
29 promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement
30 the provisions of this Act.
31

32 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** — The amount of Fifty Million Pesos
33 (PhP50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation
34 of this Act and shall be charged against the Contingent Fund in the
35 General Appropriations Act of the current year. Thereafter, such sums as
36 may be necessary for the full implementation of this Act shall be
37 included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of

1 the DOST. The appropriations for this Act shall be increased
2 periodically and shall be valid for two (2) years.

3

4 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is
5 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by
6 such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

7

8 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive and
9 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the
10 foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11

12 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
13 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
14 circulation.

15

Approved,