

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

8 AUG 13 P2:03

SENATE  
S. No. 2536

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 12 provides that:

SEC. 12. The State shall regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit. It shall encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology.

Our country has been blessed with gifted scientists who has produced breakthroughs in many fields of sciences. The sad reality however is that many if not most of the scientists in our country do not have the necessary training and support to be able to communicate their findings to the policymakers who can put their work to good use.

With the increasing presence of science and technology in public policy issues, a greater national effort needs to be made to train scientists to engage in the public dialogue. Graduate training programs in science and engineering often lack opportunities for students to develop communications skills that will enable them to effectively explain technical topics to nonscientific audiences.

Providing training in communications skills development will ensure that locally trained scientists are better prepared to engage in dialogue on technical topics with policymakers and business leaders. Training scientists to interact with policymakers will improve accessibility to information and ensure that technical expertise is included in the public policy dialogue.


This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Science and Technology to encourage programs that will train our scientists to communicate the results of their endeavors to the policymakers.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF  
3 SCIENTISTS TO INTERACT WITH POLICYMAKERS  
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of representatives of the Philippines in*  
6 *Congress assembled:*

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Scientific Communications  
8 Act of 2008.”

9 SECTION 2. *Program.* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall  
10 establish a program to make grants to institutions to provide communications training to graduate  
11 students to improve the ability of scientists to interact with policymakers. Such program shall be  
12 integrated with other national programs for the training of scientists.

13 SECTION 3. *Award.* – Grants shall be awarded under this law on a competitive, merit-  
14 reviewed basis, in a manner so as to ensure relevance to public policymaking.

15 SECTION 4. *Reporting.* – A recipient of a grant under this section shall transmit to the  
16 DOST an annual report describing the operations of the program funded by the grant.

17 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as  
18 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

19 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or  
20 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
21 valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent  
3 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

6           Approved,

/apm080808