

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2131



Introduced by Rep. Ferjenel G. Biron, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Without doubt, science and technology are important driving forces in a nation's quest for development and progress. An effective technological capability is thus essential to a nation desirous of attaining industrializing country status in this millennium.

Science and technology development, however, is not simply a matter of training more scientists or establishing high technology companies. Perhaps more important than these physical manifestations of technological progress is the development of a strong science culture which is reflective of our youth's attitude towards S & T.

While the Philippine educational system admittedly plays a major role in the evolution and development of science and technology culture, there are also other means by which we can realize our vision for S & T awareness particularly in the Province of Iloilo.

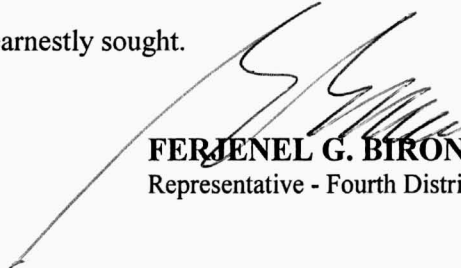
This bill intends to strengthen science and technology popularization program in the Province of Iloilo which shall have the following major components:

- a) Youth Development;
- b) Science Communication and Outreach;
- c) S & T Impact Assessment Program; and
- d) Interactive Exhibit Development.

These components of the program are meant to serve as additional venues for the dissemination, demonstration, and popularization of various S&T concepts and researches. Since the intention of the program is to reach out to the masses across different sectors, the use of various media approaches and educational strategies is also encouraged. Thus, the bill also proposes the granting of incentives to media and private organizations engaged in science and technology popularization activities in the province.

With the approval of this measure, we hope to provide the needed impetus to boost the fruition of our dream of a truly S&T-conscious province and to be globally competitive.

Its immediate passage is thus most earnestly sought.


FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.
Representative - Fourth District of Iloilo

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE ILOILO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
POPULARIZATION PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. **Title.** - This Act shall be known as the **“Iloilo Science and Technology Popularization Program Act of 2004”**.

SEC. 2. **Policy and Program.** - It is hereby the policy of the State that science and technology (S&T) are essential for national development and progress. To implement this policy, the State shall:

- (A) Support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to the country's productive systems and national life;
- (B) Encourage and support private sector initiative, continuing active participation and contributions towards the common science and technology objectives so that its entire resources can be harnessed to achieve faster and greater results for the benefit of the Filipino people;
- (C) Regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of the 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 S & T ; and

- (D) Encourage non-formal, informal and all indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning independent, and out-of- school youth study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

SEC. 3. Description of Program Components. - The Iloilo Science and Technology Popularization Program shall have the following components:

- (1) **Youth Development Program** . This program shall be designed to reach out to the youth sector and educate them on science and technology and society (STS), and consequently consider careers in this disciplines. Whenever possible, it must be the national focal point of youth oriented projects and activities. The program shall provide the venue for youth science competitions, training, research, apprenticeship and the like;
- (2) **Science Communication and Outreach Program** . - The Program shall be the venue for information banking, access, and dissemination of popular Science and Technology principles and concepts utilizing various media approaches and educational strategies. The program intends to reach out to the masses across all ages and sectors;
- (3) **Continuing Assessment Program** . - The program is designed to undertake researches on the impact of popular Science and Technology, especially on new technologies and/or science and technology popularization subprograms in relation to human and social changes both of national and regional concern;
- (4) **Public S&T Learning Centers.** - This Program shall be designed to develop highly participatory display of kinetic and hands-on exhibits that demonstrate the principles of science and the innovation of applied technology. These exhibits

should be manipulative and especially created to achieve maximum cognition of S & T concepts through amusement, game-playing and aesthetic approaches.

.SEC. 4. Science and Technology Media Popularization Program. - All media groups participating in this program setting aside print space, air and broadcast time shall be entitled to tax incentives.

SEC. 5. Support Fund and Incentives to Private Organizations, Associations and Foundations. - Any non-profit, non-stock private organization, association or foundation that shall directly and/or actively engage in the maintenance and operations of the Iloilo Science and Technology Popularization Program herein established shall be granted annual financial support in the amount to be fixed by the Department of Science and Technology. Programs and plans for the utilization of the support fund shall be based on the priorities formulated by the DOST in close consultation with the private sectors concerned.

In addition to the support fund herein provided, said non-profit , non-private organizations, associations, or foundations shall be entitled to the following incentives:

- (a) Any donation, contribution, bequest, subsidy or financial aid given to said private organizations, associations, or foundations solely for the purpose of the Program shall be exempted from taxes of any kind and shall constitute allowable deductions in full from the income of donors or givers for income tax purposes;
- (b) All the assests, incomes and all transactions of said private organizations, associations or foundations directly accruing to or affecting the PSP Program shall be exempted from any and all kinds of taxes, fees, charges, imposts, documentary stamps, licenses and assessments whether direct or indirect imposed by the Republic of the Philippines or any o its political subdivisions; and
- (c) Upon recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology and upon approval by the Secretary of Finance, all importations made

for the Iloilo Science and Technology Popularization Program shall be exempted from import duties and taxes.

SEC. 6. **Funding.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. **Iloilo Science and Technology Popularization Program Coordinating Committee .** - There is hereby created a Coordinating Committee to oversee the implementation of the program to be composed of one representative each from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)- Region VI, Department of Education (DepEd) - Region VI, Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology (PFST), a media group involved in the project and a non-governmental organization engaged in Science Promotion to be designated by the Director of DOST-Region VI . This Committee shall be chaired by the Director of DOST-Region VI.

SEC. 9. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders or regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect upon completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,