

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4006



Introduced by **Reps. RENE M. VELARDE AND EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Science and Technology (S&T) human resource is one of the most important factors in propelling the country's economic growth and development for global competitiveness. It is for this reason that the S&T Scholarship Program was created under RA 7687, which was further amended by RA 8248. The program allocates an average of 3,600 baccalaureate and technician scholarship slots every year and as of 2004, it is supporting a total of 10,327 scholars from the different regions of the country.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), the program's funding source, has fully complied with RA 7687 and RA 8248 by remitting to the Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) a total of P312 million from February 1997 to January 2001. PAGCOR has reiterated its support to the scholarship program, as long as there will be another enabling legislation.

This amendatory bill therefore seeks to provide continuous funding by PAGCOR to carry out the full implementation of the scholarship program in support of the country's S&T Human Resource Development (HRD) requirements and the National S&T HRD plan.

A significant component of this amendatory measure is the establishment of a HRD program for deserving science and technology students and individuals to enable them to pursue, not only undergraduate, but also graduate and post graduate degree programs including high-end specialized trainings in priority areas of S&T, either in local or foreign institutions. This will provide a more focused and holistic effort that will promote the development of a critical mass of S&T human resource and to develop S&T capabilities that are required to

enhance and accelerate national productivity and global competitiveness. This program shall be implemented with the DOST-SEI as the lead agency.

The amendatory bill seeks for a continuing augmentation of the Scholarship Fund in the amount of P15 million per month for the first two (2) years of implementation, to be increased to P20 million in the succeeding years, which sum shall be generated from the net income of PAGCOR.

In view of the foregoing reasons, immediate passage of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.



RENE M. VELARDE



EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

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MAGSAYSAY

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING FURTHER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7687, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8248, TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITIVENESS OF THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN RESOURCES IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.* – Science and Technology (S&T) 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.

In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of a critical mass of S&T human resources in the country and provide S&T capabilities that are required to enhance and accelerate national productivity and global competitiveness. As such, it shall establish a human resource development program for deserving science students and individuals to enable them to pursue undergraduate, graduate and post graduate degree programs including high-end specialized trainings in priority areas of science and technology.

Sec. 2. *General Objectives* – To carry out the foregoing policy, this Act shall further enhance the country's pool of science and technology human resources by providing local and foreign scholarship opportunities to talented and deserving students and individuals desiring to pursue higher education or advanced degree programs in priority areas of science and technology.

Sec. 3. Appropriations – Continuing appropriations for the Scholarship Fund shall be provided in the amount of FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (P 15,000,000.00) per month for the first two (2) years to be increased to TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000.00) per month on the succeeding years, which sum shall be generated from the net income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). *Provided*, that such amount shall be strictly used to subsidize the beneficiaries' expenses while pursuing higher education or advanced degree programs locally or abroad under the S & T human resource development program.

The Department of Science and Technology through the Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) shall be authorized to use the interest accruing from the Scholarship Trust Fund. *Provided*, however, that such interest shall be used solely for scholarship benefits.

Further, the DOST-SEI shall be authorized to implement the National Science and Technology Human Resource Development Plan.

Sec. 4. Science and Technology Human Resource Development Council (STHRDC) – The STHRDC, created under RA No. 8248, shall be tasked to prepare the S&T Human Resource Development Plan and shall serve as the policy-making body on matters relating to human resource development in science and technology. It shall be chaired by the Secretary of the DOST and shall include the following as members:

- Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- Director-General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA);
- Secretary of the Department of Budget and management (DBM);
- President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC);
- President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI);
- and
- Director-General, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

Sec. 5. Science and Technology Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee now called the Science and Technology Advisory Committee (STSAC), created under RA 7687, shall serve as the implementing body for the S&T human resource development program. Likewise, it shall formulate scholarship guidelines consistent with the policies and priorities set forth by the

STHRDC. The Chairperson of the CHED and Director-General of PEZA shall be included as members.

Sec. 6. Coverage – As defined under RA 7687, the scholarship grants shall be applied only in priority fields in science, mathematics, and engineering at the undergraduate, graduate or post graduate levels. Grants for graduate and post graduate scholarships may be provided for advanced level trainings at foreign institutions with recognized S&T programs and/or Centers of Excellence as determined by STSAC.

Sec. 7. Assistance to Grantees – The grantees of scholarships under this Act shall be entitled to financial assistance which may include tuition and other school fees, monthly living allowance, book allowance, transportation expenses and including thesis/dissertation grants for post baccalaureate studies.

Sec. 8. Qualifications – In order to qualify for the scholarships at the undergraduate level, applicants must satisfy the qualification requirements under RA 7687. Those who will apply for the graduate and post graduate scholarships must be graduates of Bachelor of Science courses in the priority fields of science and technology and must satisfy other qualification requirements as determined by the STSAC.

Sec. 9. Allocation of Slots – Slots shall be allocated based on the plans for developing the country's competitiveness on S&T and based on the available funding for the program with the most number of recipients as determined in the guidelines set forth by the STSAC.

Sec. 10. Place of Study – The recipients of the scholarship grants under this Act shall be required to pursue their baccalaureate and post baccalaureate degree programs in state colleges/universities with high quality training standards and in tertiary institutions identified by CHED as Centers of Excellence, DOST recognized R&D network institutions, and in nationally and internationally recognized institutions as determined by STSAC.

Sec. 11. Alternative Approaches on S&T Human Resource Development – Innovative approaches may be implemented which shall include research-based degree programs and consortium arrangements with local and international

institutions that will accelerate the development of a critical mass of internationally competitive S&T human resources in the country.

Sec. 12. Service Obligation – Immediately upon completion of a course, a scholar shall serve the country on full-time basis along his/her field of training in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 129.

A scholar who is terminated prior to the completion of his/her course shall render service to the country equivalent to the number of years he/she enjoyed the scholarship or refund the total amount he/she received during the scholarship period plus interest.

Sec. 13. Post Scholarship Incentives – The graduates of the scholarship program under this Act shall be entitled to incentives as defined by RA 7687 and according to guidelines set forth by STSAC.

Sec. 14. Rules and Regulations – Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DOST- SEI in collaboration with the CHED shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions thereof.

Sec. 15. Repealing Clause – Certain provisions of RA 7687 not conforming with this Act are hereby repealed/amended accordingly.

Sec. 16. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the other provisions not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

Sec. 17. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,