

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4684



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State must support the ever growing science and technology as vital aspects of national development by providing for ample incentives to scientists, engineers, researchers, experts and other technical manpower personnel.

Presently, however, R.A. No. 8439 entitled: *Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other Science and Technology in the Government* provides, among others, a hazard allowance ranging from 10% to 30% of the monthly basic salary of science and technology (S & T) personnel. The provision for hazard allowance can go down to a minimum or to a maximum amount of 10% to 30%, respectively. Therefore, the government can opt to allocate a lower or a higher budget, depending on the availability of funds, thus demoralizing the ranks of S & T personnel.

The coverage of workplaces as hazardous is limited only to those in the enumeration and may need updating.

First, this bill seeks to correct the ambivalence of the law in allocating funds for hazard allowance for S & T personnel by imposing a maximum fixed rate equivalent to 30% of their monthly basic salary.

Second, in view of the ill-effects of climate change, where S & T personnel may have to work outdoors, hazardous places should also be amended to include land, air and seas classified as danger zones and difficult/distressed or hardship posts.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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AN ACT PRESCRIBING A HAZARD ALLOWANCE OF THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF THE MONTHLY BASIC SALARY FOR ALL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. No. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT*

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

SECTION 1. Section 7, (c) of R.A. No. 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 7. *Other Benefits.* – Notwithstanding Section 12 of Republic Act No. 6758, science and technology personnel defined under Section 5 of this Act shall receive the following:

xxx

(c) *Hazard allowance.* – S & T personnel involved in hazardous undertakings or assigned in hazardous workplaces, shall be paid hazard allowances EQUIVALENT [ranging from ten percent (10%)] to thirty percent (30%) of their monthly basic salary [depending on the nature and extent of the hazard involved]. The following shall be considered hazardous workplaces:

- (1) Radiation-exposed laboratories and service workshops;
- (2) Remote/depressed areas;
- (3) Areas declared under a state of calamity or emergency;
- (4) Strife-torn or embattled areas;
- (5) Laboratories and other disease-infested areas;
- (6) WORK AREAS ON LAND, AIR AND SEAS THAT ARE HIGH DANGER ZONES TO NATURAL HAZARDS;

(7) DIFFICULT/DISTRESSED OR HARDSHIP POSTS

xxx

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Thereafter, the funds necessary to fully implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budgetary appropriations of the DOST.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,