

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7011



Introduced by Reps. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang and Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Science and Technology through the leadership of Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña celebrated every third week of July yearly through Proclamation No. 169 of 1993. It aims to recognize the contribution of science and technology in the development of the country and garner support from the public and private institutions for its sustainable development. This year's theme is 'Science for the People,' (SFTP) and highlight the practical use of various technological products and research outputs,"

The celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) annually to showcase the services and products of our scientists, engineers, researchers, inventors, and innovators. The activities lined up for this year's NSTW are science and technology forums on agriculture, health, nutrition, disaster preparedness management, and manufacturing. Technology exhibits and launches, film showing, scientific career talks, science journalism writeshop, SETUP forums, and awarding ceremony are also included.

The aims to give the public a unique experience on how S&T work for a better life. It is an amazing science and technology (S&T) experience as the Department of Science and Technology showcases the country's best in S&T research and services, interactive exhibits, and technology-aided entrepreneurship. Because of this activities, it was encourage to conduct a Regional Science and Technology Week in the different regions so that it will be closer to the people and science will be felt by the different provinces.

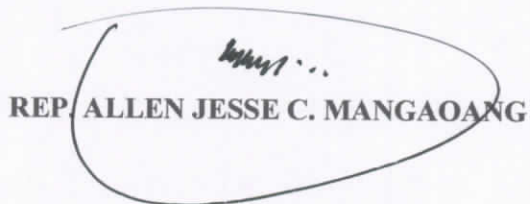
This is the time to strengthen the provincial science and technology center by converting them into an office with respective plantilla position that would serve the transfer of technology from national to regional to provincial, so that the program of the DOST would truly be a AGHAM RAMDAM policy. The PSTCs serve as the implementing arm of DOST for all its flagship projects and as an effective listening post on science and technology concerns in the provinces.

In order to function as mandated by law to disseminate transfer technologies and provide technological support service for the development of small and medium enterprises in the rural areas, there is a need to revisit the Republic Act No. 6959, the law creating the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) by converting the said center into an office which shall manage by a provincial director and with support staff equal and the same as the Provincial of Trade and Industry under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Immediate passage of this important measure is earnestly sought.



REP. ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO



REP. ALLEN JESSE C. MANGAOANG



REP. SETH FREDERICK P. JALOSJOS

(NEW VERSION)
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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CENTER INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE
IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Provincial Science and Technology Office Act of 2017.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.— It is the policy and duty of the State to fast track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas particularly in the enhancement and development of technology based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

Pursuant to this policy, the Provincial Science and Technology Centers of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will act as the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas to be converted to a Provincial Science and Technology Office through this Act.

SEC. 3. Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs). The Provincial Science and Technology offices will have the following functions, as determined by the DOST Secretary:

- a.) Identify the needs and opportunities in science and technology (S&T) in the provinces;
- b.) Implement DOST programs and projects on technology promotion and transfer, S&T human resource development, S&T promotion and information dissemination, delivery of technical and consultancy services, and such other areas of concern that will benefit the people in the provinces;
- c.) Develop institutional linkages with provincial offices of other departments both local government units, academe and non-governmental offices for the effective implementation of science and technology programs in the provinces;

Sec. 4 *Provincial S&T Directors.* -[The present heads of the PSTOs with the designation of Provincial Science and Technology Officer and the position title of Senior Research Specialist, with salary grade of nineteen (SG 19) shall be upgraded to the rank of Provincial Science and Technology Directors in each province with a salary grade of twenty-six (SG 26) under the DOST. Further, Provided, That the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Formulate the provincial S&T plan, programs, and projects designed to promote science and culture among the people in the province, consistent with and supportive to the regional and national development S&T plans;
- (b) Implement and monitor the technology promotion, transfer and commercialization of projects of the DOST in the provinces;
- (c) Promote the adoption of the appropriate technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve operational efficiency and increase productivity to harness the results of scientific researchers and innovations to produce new and competitive products;
- (d) Disseminate S&T related information and R&D results through the conduct of trainings, symposia and/or other similar fora;
- (e) Maintain effective liaison with the public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research, education, and training;
- (f) Coordinate with local government units (LGUs) and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship programs aimed to attract the science-oriented students to pursue basic and applied sciences in order to broaden the S&T human resource in the province;
- (g) Coordinate with the public and private organizations in the implementation of human resource and institutional development programs in the province;
- (h) Represent DOST in the inter-agency meetings, conferences, and other coordinative activities in the province;
- (i) Responsible for the overall supervision and fiscal management of services and operations of the PSTO;
- (j) Ensure that the quality of operational management system is in accordance with the ISO quality management standards;
- (k) Enter into lawful contracts, memoranda of agreement and other instruments including the right to sue and be sued; and
- (l) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by the higher authorities.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Provincial S&T Director.* The DOST in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall formulate the necessary qualification standards and eligibility requirements commensurate to the upgraded position of the Provincial Science and Technology Director at

salary grade twenty-six (SG 26). The current head of the PSTO holding the position for more than twenty (20) years, shall automatically be included in the selection for Provincial Science and Technology Director position: Provided, That the incumbent has met and complied with all the requirements.

SEC. 6. *Remuneration and other Benefits of the Provincial Director.* The remuneration of the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall be equivalent to that of the same salary grade twenty-six (26) in the government service and shall be entitled to reimbursable representation and transportation allowance commensurate to his office and other benefits as prescribed by law.

SEC. 7. *Staff of the Provincial Science and Technology Office.* The PSTOs shall have at least a minimum of five (5) plantilla positions in addition to the Provincial Director. In cases, when there is a need for additional staff, such shall be determined by the Provincial Director based on the population of the province or on the number of districts per province. The DOST shall determine the level of these positions, provided that prescribed qualifications shall be in accordance with existing Civil Service laws and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Use of Funds.* All fees and charges collected as a result of S&T services rendered by the PSTOs is not only limited to metrological work, testing and calibration services but shall be used by the PSTOs in the enhancement of PSTOs capabilities, development of human resource and in the maintenance of their equipment and facilities.

SEC.9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOST under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,