

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 7895



Introduced by **HON. ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Experience tells us that Science and Technology (S&T) and economic development are directly correlated. And one of the important, if not the most important aspect in advancing S&T of a country is improving its Science Education, especially in the basic education level since this serves as the foundation of higher learning.

Development in the field of Science and Technology is rapidly changing and in effect also changing the social environment. Our country needs to be abreast in S&T if we want to be competitive with the rest of the world, specifically our human resource which is one of our most important economic assets. To do this, we need to invest on Science education.

Science is not only for the “initiates” or the intellectual elite of a society. Science should be for everyone and available to every learner, whether in elementary, high school or higher education. To realize this, we need to improve our infrastructure by building enough science classrooms and providing them with equipment.

Science is both content and process and it goes beyond learning and understanding of basic concepts. Learners should learn the skills and methods of Science by doing Science. It should not rely only on textbooks, rather teachers should encourage learners to use hands-on learning activities to better understand Science. Students or pupils should be active learners and in so doing become more interested in Science.

Science education should nurture on learners the capacity to apply Scientific concepts and processes in daily life and in improving their lives.

The intent of this measure is to provide an environment that foster learning Science by doing science through improving the educational infrastructure.

With these, the timely passage of this measure is highly sought.


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**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULLY-EQUIPPED SCIENCE
LABORATORIES IN EVERY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE**

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Science Laboratory for Basic Education Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to give priority to scientific and technological efforts vital to national development. It has been proven that industrialization can be achieved if schools adopt modern methods of teaching Science and Technology during the early stages of education.

Furthermore, the Constitution provides that the right of teachers to professional advancement should be enhanced. With this mandate, quality education shall be ensured.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act aims to attain the following objectives within the period of five (5) years.

- a. To improve the quality of Science and Technology education in the country;
- b. To provide basic and advance S&T education in elementary and high school respectively, in preparation for higher education;
- c. To teach the students the effective use and operation of modern laboratory equipment and facility related to Science and Technology; and,
- d. To train S&T teachers the use of modern laboratory equipment so that they will be more effective in demonstrating their uses.

SEC. 4. *Proposed System.* – This Act shall provide the following:

- a. Construction of laboratory buildings
- b. Provide required laboratory equipment and facilities;
- c. Continuous development and updating of standards for facilities;
- d. Strengthen partnership between public and private institutions in promoting Science and Technology;

- e. Strengthen the coordination between the Regional Science and Technology Teaching Centers (RSTCs) and the Department of Education regional offices in monitoring/utilization of laboratory equipment;
- f. Train Math and Science teachers the proper use and maintenance of laboratory facilities equipment;
- g. Create required laboratory technician positions at least for every elementary and secondary schools for operation, repair and maintenance of laboratory equipment (or alternative scheme of maintenance) and facilities;
- h. Provide replacement and assistance of Science and Technology;
- i. The number of laboratory rooms/facilities per school shall be determined by Science and Technology experts of DOST and ISMED.
- j. The building, plan and design shall be drawn and approved by DOST-SEI.

SEC. 5. *Funding Source.* – In addition to the funds to be provided by the Legislature, this Act shall receive funding support from the following:

- a. Twenty percent (20%) share from the gross proceeds of travel tax collections over and above the share of the National government therefrom;
- b. Twenty percent (20%) share from the net income of the Philippine Games and Amusement Corporation (PAGCOR) over and above the franchise tax and the corporate income tax therefrom.

SEC. 6. *Incentives.* – Incentives shall be given to the following:

- a. Tax incentives shall be given to private entities engaging in S&T and development;
- b. Private schools who shall import laboratory equipment/facilities for the exclusive use in their school shall be given a twenty percent (20%) tax deduction from the total revenue obligations;
- c. Private entities engaged in the manufacture of laboratory equipment needed in public schools shall be given a three percent (3%) tax incentive/deduction from the importation of raw materials.

SEC. 7. *Disposition of Funds.* – The Fund shall be utilized for the construction of school laboratories including equipment/facilities and the creation of required positions of a technician in every public elementary and high schools throughout the country.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Science Education Institute (SEI) in coordination with the regional offices of DepEd and the RSTCs shall implement the program. The abovementioned offices shall also monitor the utilization and maintenance of the equipment.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriation of the DepEd and DOST . Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual general Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementation.* – The implementation of the activities of this Act shall be undertaken by SEI in coordination with the RSTCs and DepEd Regional Offices.

The maximum number of pupils/students in every laboratory class must not exceed fifty (50) and there must be at least one laboratory room for every forty-five (45) pupils/students.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

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

Approved,