

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10384**



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF NATIONAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Innovation enables growth, while growth also opens opportunities for further innovation. Research and development, as harbingers and indicators of innovation, thus, are essential parts of the economic development of a nation.

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 10 provides:

“Science and Technology 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.”

Despite the abundance of skilled researchers and research universities in the country, the government has yet to fully utilize this supply of intellectuals and their public service-oriented research through programs and policies that support them. As such, we need to ensure that bureaucratic processes will not hinder our efforts and instead would simplify the government requirements to allow the people behind the research and development (R&D) activities to be incentivized and their research be fully utilized.

This bill seeks to establish under the Office of the President a Research and Development Support Committee (RDSC) who shall be responsible for reviewing regulations affecting research and research universities. This Committee shall harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative regulations and reporting requirements; and minimize the regulatory burden on institutions of higher education performing government funded research while maintaining accountability for expenditures.

It is the hope of this measure to efficiently utilize the rich talents and skills of our researchers and research universities to provide the best and most innovative programs to serve the country at large.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as “*Research and Development Efficiency Act*.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – It shall be the policy of the State to ensure that all efforts towards research and development shall be efficient and effective.

SECTION 3. *Research and Development Support Committee*. – There shall be established under the Office of the President a Research and Development Support Committee (RDSC) who shall be responsible for reviewing regulations affecting research and research universities and making recommendations on how to:

- a) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative regulations and reporting requirements; and
- b) minimize the regulatory burden on institutions of higher education performing government funded research while maintaining accountability for expenditures.

SECTION 4. *Stakeholder Input*. – In carrying out the responsibilities under Section 3, the RDSC shall take into account input and recommendations from stakeholders, including national and local government funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations, non-profit research institutions, industry, including small businesses, government funded research and development centers, and

others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

SECTION 5. *Report.* – Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall report to the appropriate committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives on what steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group established under Section 3.

SECTION 6. *Term.* – The term of RDSC shall be three (3) years.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, and the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, in coordination with other stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,