



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5482



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

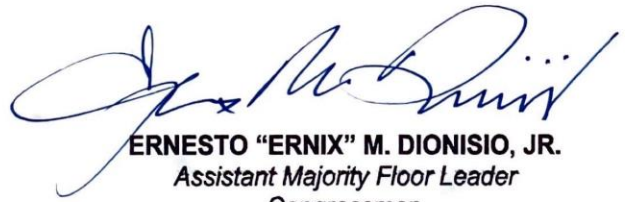
Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states: “The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Likewise, Section 10, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states: “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.”

Furthermore, Section 11, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states: “The Congress may provide for incentives, including tax deductions, to encourage private participation in programs of basic and applied scientific research. Scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other forms of incentives shall be provided to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, inventors, technologists, and specially gifted citizens.

In line with the aforementioned Constitutional provisions, this bill seeks to introduce measures to strengthen the country’s reliance on science and technology, by inculcating in the minds of the youth its importance and value.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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

Section 1. Short 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:

- 1) To improve the quality of science and technology education in the country;
- 2) To provide basic and advanced S&T education in high school, respectively in preparation for higher education;
- 3) To teach the students the effective use and operation of modern laboratory equipment and facility related to science and technology; and
- 4) To train S&T teachers the use of modern laboratory equipment so that they will be more effective in demonstrating their uses.

Sec. 4. 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 (10%) share from the gross proceeds of travel tax collections over and above the share of the National government therefrom;
- b) Twenty percent (10%) 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. 5. Incentives. – Incentives shall be given to the following:

- a) Tax Incentives shall be given to private entities engaging in S&T development;
- b) Private schools shall import laboratory equipment/facilities for the exclusive use in their school shall be given a twenty percent (25%) 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 five percent (5%) tax incentive/deduction from the importation of raw materials.

Sec. 6. Proposed System. – This Act shall provide the following:

- 1) Construction of laboratory buildings;
- 2) Provide required laboratory equipment and facilities;
- 3) Continuous development and updating of standards for facilities;
- 4) Strengthen the partnership between public and private institutions in promoting science and technology;
- 5) 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;
- 6) Train math and science teachers the proper use, repair and maintenance of the laboratory facilities and equipment;
- 7) Create required laboratory technician positions at least for every elementary and secondary schools for the operation, repair and maintenance of the laboratory equipment (or alternative scheme of maintenance) and facilities;
- 8) The number of laboratory rooms/facilities per school shall be determined by science and technology experts of DOST; and
- 9) The building, plans and design shall be drawn and approved by DOST-SE.

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 school 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 above-mentioned offices shall also monitor the utilization and maintenance of the equipment.

Sec. 8. Implementation. – The implementation of the activities of this Act shall be undertaken by SEI in coordination with the RSTS 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.

The DOST and SEI shall also coordinate with DepED and RSTCS shall also formulate guidelines to review and evaluate the current pool of math and science teachers in order to ensure the effective conduct of their training program.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provision not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders or regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,