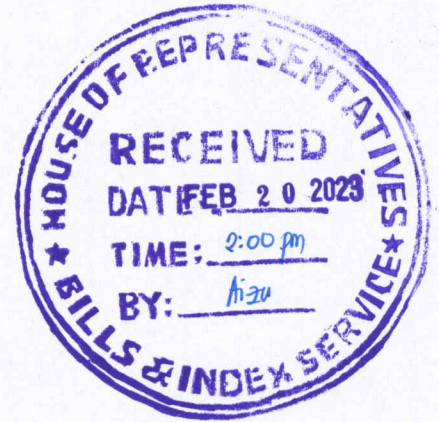




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7219**

Introduced by Representative DAVID "Jay-Jay" C. SUAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the importance of science and technology for national development and prioritizes it by mandating the state to support research and development, invention, innovation, and their applications. It also requires the state to provide science and technology education, training, and services and promote self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities.

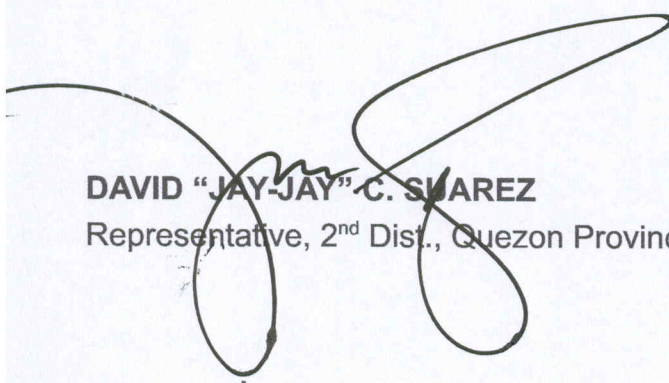
Additionally, the state is responsible for regulating the transfer of technology from all sources for the benefit of the country and promoting the participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology.

During the recent National Science and Technology Week, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed his support for research and development and urged the Department of Science and Technology to provide more support to students through scholarships. The administration has also pledged to retain and support the country's scientists and experts in the field through funding.

While there are currently various sources of funding through the DOST and international and private groups, the proponents of the bill aim to drive more opportunities to students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This will incentivize the youth to pursue their ideas and foster a research-based and data-driven culture in tertiary education. Unfortunately, research and development is not a popular or attractive option for many students, and the bill aims to encourage them to become important innovators and contributors to society.

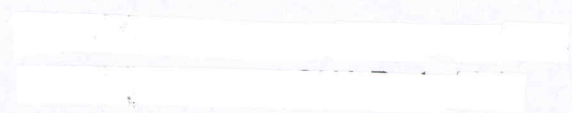
Through the Development Research Fund that this bill seeks to establish, we are putting the resources firmly in the hands of deserving students and enable them to pursue and realize their projects. In addition, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will be given an opportunity to strengthen their research programs through this much needed funding.

Lastly, support for worthwhile causes must be made more accessible and easier, especially in cases where a study seeks to address pressing issues whether local or national in nature, be it food security, improving transparency in governance, water shortage, or even climate change. This bill will also allow local government units and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to guide these learners in identifying problems that need particular attention.



DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ

Representative, 2nd Dist., Quezon Province





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HOUSE BILL NO. **7219**

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AN ACT
TO IMPROVE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) THROUGH THE CRITERIA OF A
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FUND AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Higher Education Institutions' Development Research Fund Act of 2023".

Sec. 2. **Objectives.** - It shall be the objective of this Act to provide Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with the necessary resources to improve their facilities, services, and research capabilities for the betterment of the students, faculty, and the wider community, and to prioritize state universities and colleges in the grant of research funds by the Philippine government.

Sec. 3. **Definition of Terms.** - For the purposes of this Act:

a. **Higher Education Institution (HEI)** refers to an educational institution designed for instruction, examination, or both, of students in many branches of advanced learning, conferring degrees in various faculties, and often embodying colleges and similar institutions.

b. **Development Research Fund** refers to the fund established by this Act to finance the development, improvement, and upgrading of HEI's research facilities.

Sec. 4. **Creation of the Development Research Fund.** - The Development Research Fund is hereby created which shall be taken from the annual budget of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in the General Appropriations Act of the current year.

Sec. 5. **Use of the Development Research Fund.** - The Development Research Fund shall be used to finance the following:

- a. Upgrading and improvement of existing HEI's facilities and services.
- b. Development of new HEI's facilities and services.
- c. Expansion of HEI's research capabilities.
- d. Improvement of HEI's faculty and staff training programs.
- e. Any other purpose that will contribute to the improvement of HEI's as determined by the CHED, DOST, DPWH, DENR, DoE and DA.

Sec. 6. **Grant of Research Funds.** - The Philippine government shall prioritize state universities and colleges in the grant of research funds. The CHED shall submit an annual list of private and state universities and colleges with research capabilities in each development area to the government for consideration.

Sec. 7. **Protocol for the grant of the Research Fund.** - HEIs' in need of funds for its Research and Development shall course its request to the DOST's Special Projects Division (SPD). The SPD shall then endorse the proposal to the appropriate Sectoral Council for evaluation and approval aligned with the National R&D Agenda.

Sec. 8. **Criteria in Assessing R&D Protocols.** - Proposals on R&D projects and/or activities selected by the Sectoral Council shall be based on the following criteria:

- a. Capacity of the Proponent - the competence of the HEI to undertake the project;
- b. Scientific Merit - the commitment of the HEI to create new knowledge or innovatively apply existing ones;
- c. Feasibility - the tenability of the undertaking, project, program or activity both, financially and technically;
- d. Implementation Strategy - the efficiency of the design, methodology, or strategy in implementing the project, program or activity to attain its objective;
- e. Socio-economic Impact - capability to provide employment, increase income, or address any current national problem;
- f. Environmental Impact - the project, program, or activity should not have any adverse effect to the environment;
- g. Time Frame - project, program or activity shall be within a reasonable time limit;
- h. Adopters - Utilization Plans - inclusion of plans on how the results will be utilized by the target end users;
- i. Institution Capacity - commitment to upgrade S&T facilities and database infrastructures; and

- j. Cultural Sensitivity - adaptability of the project to Philippine culture and tradition

Sec. 9. ***DOST Sectoral Council*** - The Sectoral Council, which shall evaluate and approve endorsed R&D proposals of the HEI, shall be composed of:

- a. **Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)** - The PCAARRD is aimed to strengthen the development of research and development (R&D) in the agriculture, forestry, aquatic, and natural resources sectors, as well as optimize human and physical resources to develop these sectors;
- b. **Philippine Council for Health Research and Development Council (PCHRD)** - the lead council that creates and sustains an enabling environment for health research in the country; and
- c. **Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD)** - the central agency in the development of policies, plans and programs as well as in the implementation of strategies in the industry, energy, and emerging technology sectors.

Sec. 10. ***Monitoring and Evaluation of R&D Activities***. - The DOST-SPD shall maintain a database of the projects approved for funding. The database shall have complete information including but shall not be limited to the expected outcomes of the R&D project, program or activity.

Sec. 11. ***Alignment with Economic Agenda*** - The Development Research Fund shall fund research priorities that are in line with the development and economic agenda of the current administration, particularly in the areas of:

- a. Agriculture and Food;
- b. Disaster Mitigation and Management;
- c. Environment and Natural Resources;
- d. Health and Health Products;
- e. Energy; and
- f. Information and Communications Technology

Sec. 12. ***Development-Oriented and Impactful Research*** - The CHED, DOST, DPWH, DENR, DoE and DA shall ensure that the research projects funded by the Development Research Fund are development-oriented and have the potential to have a positive impact on the economic, scientific, and social concerns of the country.

Sec. 13. ***Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation of this Act*** - The CHED, DOST, DPWH, DENR, DoE and DA shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the utilization of the Development Research Fund to ensure that the Fund is being used efficiently and effectively.

The DOST, CHED, DPWH, DENR, DoE DA and other concerned agencies in consultation with all HEIs shall within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

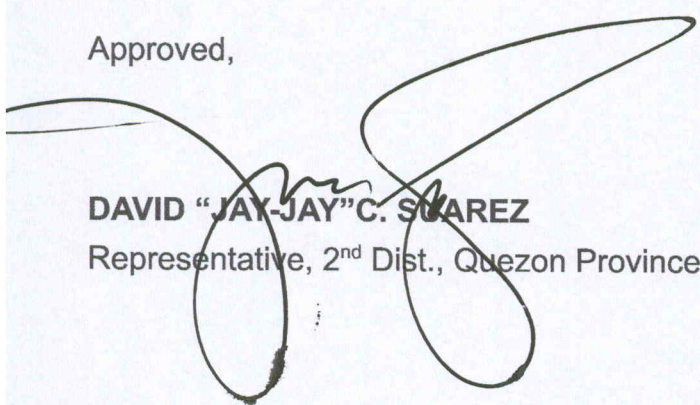
Sec. 14. **Annual Report.** - The CHED, DOST, DPWH, DENR, DoE and DA shall submit an annual report to Congress on the status of the Development Research Fund and the utilization of its resources.

Sec. 15. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 16. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 17. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,



DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ
Representative, 2nd Dist., Quezon Province

