

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10543**



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS
AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT”

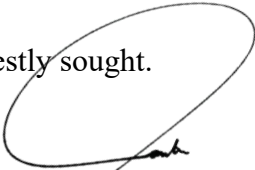
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The vast majority of challenges countries face today are in the areas of economic development, healthcare, education, disaster mitigation, poverty alleviation, climate change, and sustainable development. One common denominator these sectors share is how critical the field of Science and Technology (S & T) is in coming up with a societal solution.

Science-based knowledge creates innovative products, technology, and evidence-based solutions. This is crucial to the path towards sustainability and resiliency. Yet the country’s S & T human resources are severely lacking. Based on the Philippine Development Plan (2023 to 2028), the country has only 174 full-time researchers, scientists, and engineers (RSEs) per million population, globally ranking 84th out of 132 countries. To bridge that stark gap, a 2017 report by National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) recommends lowering the attrition rate of RSEs with incentives and better job opportunities in R&D in public and private sectors in the country.

This bill acknowledges that incentives and motivations should be aligned to impact workforce output. As the country’s capacity to generate new knowledge and technology is dependent on its human resource, investing in S & T personnel is urgently needed. It is in the Philippines’ best interest to adopt best practices from the competitive incentives of the private sector. As such, this bill aims to amend Republic Act (RA) No. 8439 to (1) remove set limits on additional salary or honoraria for S & T professionals.

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


MA. ALANA SAMANTA TALIÑO SANTOS

Representative
3rd District, Cotabato Province

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S & T Personnel In the PHILIPPINES“

SEC. 2. Section 6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 6. *Salaries.* - The existing law on salary scale of government employees shall not apply in determining the salary scale of science and technology personnel as defined In Section 5 of this Act. A new salary scale shall be developed by the Department in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, subject to the approval of the President. **IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE NO SET LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT ADDITIONAL SALARY OR HONORARIA THAT SCIENTISTS CAN RECEIVE AS COMPENSATION FROM INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS-IN-AID, PROVIDED THIS IS PART OF A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BUDGET FROM THE FUNDING AGENCY AND DOES NOT ENTAIL ADDITIONAL USUAL EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT.**”

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and Issuances, or portions thereof, which are Inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or In two (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,