



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10154

BY REPRESENTATIVES SALCEDA, VARGAS, GARIN (S.), DELOS SANTOS, CABREDO, ALBANO (A.), UMALI (M.V.), BUSTOS, NIETO, DALIPE, DEL MAR, CASTRO (F.H.), FARIÑAS (R.C.), FERRER (L.), DEFENSOR (M.), TEVES (J.), LACSON, AUMENTADO, EBCAS, TAMBUNTING, DALOG, YAP (E.), ABAYA, DY (F.), FLORES, RIVERA, SALO, YU, GATO, MANGAOANG, MARQUEZ, NAVA, DELOSO-MONTALLA, LARA, CHATTO, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, MACEDA, BENITEZ, DUAVIT, LUSOTAN, RODRIGUEZ, ROMERO, MARIÑO, UNGAB, VELASCO, SAVELLANO, LEGARDA, DY (F.M.C.), REVILLA, GONZAGA, AGABAS, QUIMBO, ERMITA-BUHAIN, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, CALDERON, CAMPOS, DAZA, FARIÑAS I (R.C.), GASATAYA, GO (E.C.), GONZALEZ, LIMKAICHONG, MATUGAS, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, SAGARBARRIA, SUAREZ (D.), TEJADA, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, AMANTE-MATBA, BARBA, BASCUG, BORDADO, CAOAGDAN, DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (A.), DUJALI, FORTUNO, GUYA, HOFER, LABADLABAD, NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO, ROMAN, SILVERIO, TAN (A.S.), TAN (A.), TIANGCO, TORRES-GOMEZ, TUTOR, VERGARA, CABOCHAN, KHO (E.), ROMULO, SARMIENTO, TUPAS, ROMUALDEZ (F.M.) AND VILLARICA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1192

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE SCIENCE FOR CHANGE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Science for Change
2 Program”.

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5 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution
6 recognizes that “science and technology are essential for national development
7 and progress.” It declares that “the State shall give priority to research and
8 development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and
9 technology education, training, and services”. Likewise, the State “shall support
10 indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities,
11 and their application to the country’s productive systems and national life”.

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13 Towards these ends and in pursuit of excellence in the field of science,
14 technology and innovation (STI), the State needs to accelerate the development
15 of STI in the country through a massive increase in investment, expansion of
16 existing STI initiatives, creation of new programs, development of human
17 resources in STI, and capacity building of research and development institutions.

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20 **SEC. 3. *Objectives.*** – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- 21
22 1. To achieve a higher standard of science, technology and innovation (STI)
23 and contribute to the development of the economy and society;
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25 2. To improve the welfare of the nation by prescribing comprehensive and
26 systematic policies for the promotion of STI; and

- 1 3. To encourage innovation and creativity among Filipinos, and come up with
2 new products, technologies and solutions to pressing national problems,
3 and gain a competitive edge in the field of research and development.
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5 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
6 mean:

- 7 a. *Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA)*
8 refers to an outcome-based agenda which identifies all the research and
9 development (R&D) programs and projects to be undertaken and funded
10 by the government to support the attainment of the key result areas of the
11 government's development objectives, particularly those that aim to
12 reduce poverty and empower the poor and vulnerable; induce rapid,
13 inclusive, and sustained economic growth; promote the integrity of the
14 environment, and enhance the country's climate change adaptation and
15 mitigation capability.
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- 17 b. *High-tech equipment* refers to any equipment using the most advanced
18 and developed machines and methods.
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- 20 c. *National Innovation Council (NIC)* refers to the policy advisory body,
21 established by virtue of Republic Act No. 11293, or the Philippine
22 Innovation Act, mandated to formulate, develop, implement and monitor
23 the country's innovation goals, priorities, and long-term national strategy.
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- 25 d. *Publicly-funded technology* refers to any technology the development or
26 generation of which was funded, in part or in full, using government money
27 or resources.
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- 29 e. *Research and development (R&D)* refers to any systematic and creative
30 work undertaken in the physical, natural, mathematical, and applied
31 sciences by using methods in order to increase the stock of knowledge in
32 these fields to devise new applications.
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- 34 f. *Science*, refers to the systematic way of acquiring knowledge through
35 observation and experimentation.
36
- 37 g. *Technology* refers to the practical application of science.

- 1 h. *Innovation* refers to the creation of new ideas that results to the
2 development of new or improved products, processes, or services which
3 are then spread or transferred across the market.
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- 5 i. *Technology licensing* refers to a mode of technology transfer whereby a
6 licensor such as a technology generator or technology or intellectual
7 property owner, authorizes a licensee to use the technology under certain
8 agreed terms and conditions.
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10 **SEC. 5. Science for Change Program (S4CP) and Utilization Policy**
11 **Framework.** – The formulation of the S4CP is anchored on the HNRDA which
12 shall be regularly updated based on the needs of the time.
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- 14 a. In order to achieve the objectives of this Act, the following science and
15 technology (S&T) programs of the DOST shall be expanded:
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- 17 1. Health Self Sufficiency and Responsiveness to Public Health
18 Emergencies
 - 19 2. Renewable Energy Systems & Bioenergy Technologies
 - 20 3. Functional Materials for Alternative Energy Sources and Energy
21 Conversion and Storage
 - 22 4. Nuclear Science for Energy, Health, Agriculture and Industry
 - 23 5. Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, and Genomics
 - 24 6. Climate and Environment Sciences
 - 25 7. Nutrition and Food Security and Safety
 - 26 8. Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Productivity
 - 27 9. Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development
 - 28 10. Transport Solutions
 - 29 11. Industrial or Manufacturing or Mining Productivity
 - 30 12. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
 - 31 13. Science and Technology (Services for the Production Sector
 - 32 14. Metrology, Calibration and Standards
 - 33 15. Technology Transfer or Commercialization
 - 34 16. Human Resource Development for Science Technology and
35 Innovation
 - 36 17. Nurturing a Culture of Science
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- 38 b. The following new programs shall also be included in the Science for
39 Change Program:
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- 41 1. Defense and Security Research and Development

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- 2. Space Science and Technology
- 3. ICT Development, Electronics and Artificial Intelligence
- 4. Strengthening of Research & Development and Science & Technology Services in the Regions through Infrastructure and Human Resource Development
- 5. S&T for the Creative, Tourism, and Services Industry
- 6. New and Emerging Technologies

SEC. 6. Major Strategies of the Science for Change Program. – The S4CP shall focus on the Accelerated R&D Program for Capacity Building of Research and Development Institutions and Industrial Competitiveness which is composed of four (4) programs namely:

- a. Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D (NICER).** The NICER Program shall be implemented to address the discrepancy in access to R&D funding among the regions. Through the program, qualified higher education institutions (HEIs) in the regions shall be provided with grants so they can undertake quality research directed at promoting regional development with their existing capabilities and resources. A proposed NICER should be a unique and collaborative project between HEIs, and must be duly endorsed by the Regional Development Council (RDC).
- b. R&D Leadership Program (RDLead).** The RDLead program shall be implemented to help develop and strengthen further the research capabilities of the academe, research and development institutions (RDIs), and other government line agencies nationwide. To this end, RDLeaders who are local S&T experts with strong leadership and innovative policy proficiencies shall be engaged to train, direct, and support R&D goals. Academic institutions RDIs, and other agencies may engage the services of an RDLeader through a screening and evaluation process to be conducted by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) based on their respective needs and specifications. The NRCP shall be the implementing agency of the RDLead Program.
- c. Collaborative R&D to Leverage the Economy (CRADLE) for RDIs and Industry.** The CRADLE Program shall be implemented to promote technological advancement and innovation in local companies and to support the growth of the Philippine innovation ecosystem. Through the program, the academe or RDI in partnership with a Filipino company,

1 shall undertake research and development to improve the company's
2 products, processes, and services to become more competitive in their
3 respective industries. To ensure that research outputs from the academe
4 are commercially utilized by the market, beneficiary-companies under this
5 program must provide at least twenty percent (20%) counterpart funding
6 and commit to adopt the technology that shall be developed by their R & D
7 Partner.

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9 **d. Business Innovation through S&T (BIST) for Industry.** The BIST
10 Program shall be implemented by the DOST to provide financial
11 assistance to Filipino private companies for the acquisition of strategic and
12 relevant technologies so they can undertake their R&D activities. The
13 financial assistance shall be used solely for the purchase of high tech
14 equipment or to secure technology licensing or patent rights and shall be
15 refunded to the DOST without interest.

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17 **SEC. 7. Formulation and Submission of the Science for Change Program**
18 **(S4CP) Plan.** – The DOST shall formulate the five-year S4CP Plan in coordination
19 with other relevant government agencies, including state universities and
20 colleges, and representatives from the private sector undertaking R&D. The
21 Secretary of DOST shall submit to the President, for approval, the Science for
22 Change Program Plan within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

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24 A successor S4CPPlan shall be formulated and submitted to the President for
25 approval at least three (3) months prior to the expiration of the existing S4CP
26 Plan.

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28 **SEC. 8. S4CP Program Management Office (PMO).** – The Project Management
29 Office for the Science for Change Program (PMO-S4CP) shall be created and
30 placed under the supervision of the Office of the Secretary of the DOST. The
31 PMO shall ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Science for
32 Change Programs. It shall perform coordinating and Secretariat functions and
33 promote the various S4CP programs. The Secretary of the DOST shall formulate
34 the staffing pattern of the PMO in coordination with the Department of Budget
35 and Management and in accordance with rules and regulations of the Civil
36 Service Commission.

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38 **SEC. 9. The Harmonized National R&D Agenda.** – The DOST shall, in
39 consultation with government research institutions and other agencies concerned,
40 formulate a HNRDA and a program for technology adoption for the

1 government in accordance with the priorities of the Philippine Development Plan.
2 The proposed HNRDA shall be submitted to the National Innovation Council for
3 approval. The DOST shall certify that all the publicly funded R&D projects form
4 part of the HNRDA and included in our Harmonized National R&D Agenda under
5 the annual General Appropriations Act.”

6
7 The DOST shall submit to the Department of Budget and Management, the
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate of the
9 Philippines, either in printed form or by electronic document, a copy of the
10 approved HNRDA. The Secretary of Science and Technology and the agency’s
11 web administrator or an equivalent officer shall ensure that the approved HNRDA
12 is posted on the agency’s website.

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14 **SEC. 10. *Mandatory Adoption of Publicly-Funded Technologies.*** – All publicly-
15 funded and generated technologies whenever feasible and practicable shall be
16 utilized by all government entities or instrumentalities. All national government
17 agencies government owned and controlled corporations, state universities and
18 colleges, and local government units conducting science and technology
19 development projects shall adopt publicly-funded technologies.

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21 **SEC. 11. *Science for Change Program Fund (S4CPF).*** – All donations,
22 contributions, grants, bequests, or gifts, in cash or in kind, for the S4CP shall be
23 placed into a fund to be known as the Science for Change Program Fund:
24 *Provided, That,* acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions, and donations
25 from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the President of the
26 Philippines, upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DOST and the
27 Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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29 **SEC. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The initial amount for the implementation of this Act
30 shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DOST.
31 Thereafter, such funds as may be required for the implementation of this Act
32 shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

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34 **SEC. 13. *Annual Report.*** – The DOST shall submit an annual report on the
35 implementation of the S4CP to the Office of the President and to the Committee
36 on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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38 **SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within One hundred eighty
39 (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOST shall formulate rules and
40 regulations for its effective implementation.

1 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
3 remain and in full force and effect.

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5 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.