

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7687, March 02, 1994]

**AN ACT INSTITUTING A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994."

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* — 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.

In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of the country's science and technology manpower in line with economic development and to provide the capability required in the areas of research, development, innovation as well as their utilization. As such, it shall provide for scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other forms of incentives to deserving science students and other specially-gifted citizens to enable them to pursue higher education or training in areas of science and technology.

SEC. 3. *General Objectives.* — To carry out the foregoing policy, this Act strengthens the country's science and technology manpower by creating a pool of scientists, engineers and technicians who shall fill the needs of industrialization. Towards this end, scholarships shall be provided to finance the education of poor, talented and deserving students desiring to pursue a degree or training in areas of science and technology as are recognized or permitted by law.

SEC. 4. *Science and Technology Scholarship Fund.* — There is hereby created a Science and Technology Scholarship Fund, hereinafter known as the Fund, to be administered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act, shall be charged against the current Fiscal Year Appropriations of the DOST.

In order to provide funds necessary for the continuous implementation of the program for every year following its initial implementation, the budget of the DOST shall be increased in the amount of Sixty million pesos (P60M) per year until it eventually reaches the amount of Three hundred million pesos (P300M) to sustain the recipients of the scholarship during the duration of their study.

SEC. 6. *Coverage.* — The grant of any scholarship award from the Fund shall be applied only in the field of science, mathematics, engineering, and such other areas in the undergraduate or postgraduate courses as may be provided for in the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the DOST and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS): *Provided, however,* That the scholarship grant for the post $\frac{1}{2}$ graduate level shall not be limited to those scholars or recipients who are graduates of the undergraduate scholarship program.

SEC. 7. *Assistance to Grantees.* — The grantee of the scholarship program under this Act is entitled to financial assistance which may include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, outright grant for prescribed military science and physical education uniform, transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: *Provided, however,* That in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial assistance given under other government scholarship programs must be considered.

SEC. 8. *Qualifications.* — In order to qualify for the scholarship program, the applicant must be:

- a. a member of the top five percent (5%) of the high school graduating class, regardless of gender, religion, and cultural affiliation;
- b. a resident of the municipality for the last four (4) years prior to availing of the scholarship, as attested by the school records; and
- c. of good moral character and in good health.

SEC. 9. *Value Formation Program.* — The scholarship program under this Act shall be supported by appropriate courses for value formation of scholars that will inculcate in them the virtues of nationalism, industriousness, honesty, commitment to national development and an effective work ethic.

SEC. 10. *Distribution of Scholarship Slots.* — The DOST in line with this Act shall provide for a proportional and equitable allotment of slots for identified fields of science and technology to attain a balanced distribution of manpower in terms of number and expertise. The DOST shall organize a program geared towards enlisting at least two (2) scholars in each municipality of the Philippines and at least ten (10) scholars for those congressional districts without municipality. Qualified members of the cultural minority in appropriate cases shall be given due preference.

SEC. 11. *Place of Study in the Country.* — The recipient of the scholarship privileges under this Act shall be required to pursue their degree program and/or the vocational, technical, or other courses specified under this Act at any academic or training institutions duly accredited by the DECS and the DOST and in private schools accredited by Federation of Accrediting Agencies in the Philippines (FAAP).

Refusal or failure to comply with this provision shall be ground for disqualification from the Program.

SEC. 12. *Place of Study Outside the Home Country.* — The scholarship grant provided herein shall not be limited to studying only in any school in this country but would include scholars who can be granted the opportunity to study abroad in schools specializing in courses stated therein: *Provided, however,* That a grantee