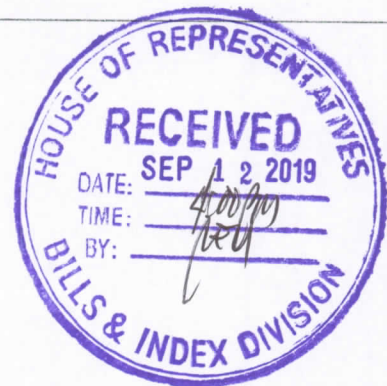


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 4572

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 6959 mandated the establishment of Provincial Centers for Science and Technology in all provinces of the Philippines. These Centers were tasked to:

- a) Identify the needs and opportunities in science and technology in the provinces;
- b) Implement Department of Science and Technology programs/projects on the delivery of science and technology services such as technology demonstration and transfer, science and technology promotion and information dissemination, and such other areas of concern that will benefit the people in the provinces; and
- c) Develop institutional linkages with provincial offices of other departments, local government units, academe and nongovernmental offices for the effective implementation of science and technology programs in the provinces.

While these Centers have been very effective in achieving their purpose, it has now come to a point where they have reached their full potential. We need to amend the law in order to further strengthen these Centers and expand its coverage.

For the longest time, these Centers' operations have not improved in terms of authority as it is supervised by a rank and file employee with a salary grade of 19 and supported by 2-3 plantilla staff. The DOST is lagging behind from other National Government Agencies (NGAs) in terms of human resources complement of their respective provincial offices, which in said NGAs, are headed by a Provincial Director. While DOST recognizes the impacts of RA 6959 in the countryside, the Department believes that it is high time that the said law be amended in order to strengthen the existing Centers by converting them into Provincial Science and Technology Offices per CSC/DBM Index of Occupational Services (IOS), thereby enabling these DOST Provincial Offices to empower more communities through more efficient delivery of Science, Technology, and Innovation Services.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 4572

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTERS ESTABLISHED BY REPUBLIC ACT 6959 INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY OFFICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 "**Provincial Science and Technology Office Act**".

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy.-It is the policy and duty of the State to fast track the transfer of relevant and appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas particularly in the enhancement and development of technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

Pursuant to this policy, the Provincial Science and Technology Centers of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), which are the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas, are hereby converted to Provincial Science and Technology Offices.

SEC 3. Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTO). The Provincial Science and Technology Office will have the following functions, as determined by the DOST secretary:

- a) Identify the needs and opportunities in science and technology (S&T) in the provinces;
- b) Implement DOST programs and projects on technology promotion and transfer, S&T human resource development, S&T promotion and information dissemination, delivery of technical and consultancy services, and such other areas of concern that will benefit the people in the provinces;
- c) Develop institutional linkages with provincial offices of other departments both local government units, academe and non-governmental offices for the effective implementation of science and technology programs in the provinces;

SEC 4. Provincial S&T Director.-The present head of the PSTOs with the designation of **Provincial Science and Technology Officer** and the position title of **Senior Science Research Specialist**, with salary grade of nineteen (SG 19) shall be upgraded to the rank of **Provincial Science and Technology Director** in each province with a salary grade equivalent to a full-fledged Provincial Director position as determined by the DOST Secretary in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The Provincial Science and Technology Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) Formulate the provincial S&T plan, programs, and projects designed to promote science and culture among the people in the province, consistent with and supportive to the regional and national development S&T plans;
- b) Implement and monitor the technology promotion, transfer, and commercialization of projects of the DOST in the province;
- c) Promote the adoption of the appropriate technology by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve operational efficiency and increase productivity to harness the result of scientific researches and innovations to produce new and competitive products;
- d) Disseminate S&T-related information and R&D result through the conduct of trainings, symposia and/or other similar fora;
- e) Maintain effective liaison with the public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research, education, and training;
- f) Coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship programs aimed to attract the science-oriented students to pursue basic and applied sciences in order to broaden the S&T human resource in the province;
- g) Coordinate with the DOST regional office and its regional development council for the promotion all S&T activities;
- h) Coordinate with public and private organizations in the implementation of human resource and institutional development programs in the province;
- i) Represent DOST in the inter-agency meetings, conferences, and other coordinative activities in the province;
- j) Responsible for the overall supervision and fiscal management of services and operations of the PSTO;
- k) Ensure that the quality of operational management system is in accordance with the ISO quality management standards;
- l) Enter into lawful contracts, memoranda of agreement, and other instruments including the right to sue and be sued;
- m) Authorize to enter agreements with the heads of the colleges or universities designated as offices, which may include matters of reporting and payment of honoraria to members of their faculty and staff; and
- n) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by the higher authorities from time to time.

SEC 5. *Qualifications of Provincial S&T Director.* – The DOST in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall formulate the necessary qualification standards and eligibility requirements commensurate to the Provincial Science and Technology Director. The incumbent head of the PSTO shall have preference and automatically be included in the selection for Provincial Science and Technology Director position.

SEC 6. *Remuneration and other Benefits of the Provincial Director.* The remuneration of the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall be equivalent to a full-fledged Provincial Director position in the government service and shall be entitled to representation and transportation allowance commensurate to his office and other benefits as prescribed by law.

SEC 7. *Staff of the Provincial Science and Technology Office.* The PSTOs shall have at least three (3) plantilla positions. In cases, when there is a need for additional staff, such shall be determined by the Provincial S&T Director based on the population of the province in consultation with and concurrence by the DOST Secretary. The DOST Secretary shall determine the level of these positions, provided that prescribed qualifications shall be in accordance with existing Civil Service laws and regulations.

SEC 8. *Use of Funds.* All fees and charges collected as a result of S&T services rendered by the PSTOs is not only limited to metrological work, testing and calibration services but shall be used by the PSTOs in the enhancement of PSTOs capabilities, development of human resource and in the maintenance of their equipment and facilities.

SEC 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOST under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulation of this Act within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act.

SEC 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force effect.

SEC 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,