

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3885



Introduced by Honorable ALFONSO V. UMALI JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the existing Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) in all provinces of the Philippines into Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) as part of the organisational structure of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Science and technology has long been recognized as one of the significant drivers of national development. In fact, Section 10, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution explicitly states that:

“Section 10. 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. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country’s productive systems and national life.”

In 1991, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6959 entitled “An Act Establishing Provincial Centres for Science and Technology in All Provinces of the Philippines And Appropriating Funds Therefor,” the Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTC) in all provinces in the country was established and operationalized serving as extensions of the

DOST Regional Offices primarily for the purpose of implementing DOST's programs and projects 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, among others.

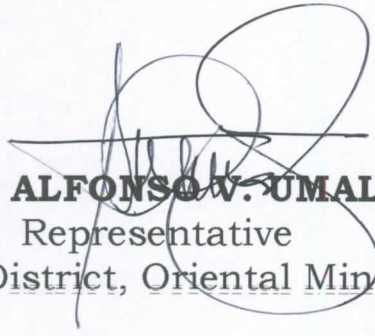
As constant partners of the local government units, the PSTCs have made a difference in the lives of students, professionals, peoples' organizations, cooperatives, civil society organizations, farmers and fisher folks, differently-abled citizens, senior citizens, and the private sector through the wide range of programs, projects, and services like technology transfer and commercialization, innovation system support, training programs, packaging and labeling assistance, technology clinics, and the likes effectively rolled-out in various parts of the regions and provinces. Being the implementing arm of the DOST in the provinces, PSTCs provide central direction, leadership, and coordination of scientific and technological efforts and ensure that the results therefrom are geared and utilized in areas of maximum economic and social benefits of the people in the respective localities they serve.

However, for the longest time, the PSTCs' operations have not been improved in terms of authority. It is worthy to note that based on its existing organizational structure under RA 6959, PSTCs are practically supervised by rank and file employee with a salary grade of 19, being the highest rank, and supported by measly 2-3 *plantilla* personnel. Glaringly, the DOST is lagging behind from other National Government Agencies (NGAs) in terms of human resources and complement especially in the respective provincial offices where most, if not all, NGAs are headed by a Provincial Director.

Given the current status of technological advancement and trends, as well as the need for technology transfer in the countryside, it is high time that, through this bill, Republic Act No. 6959 be amended in order to strengthen the existing PSTCs by converting them into Provincial Science and Technology Offices per Civil Service Commission/Department of Budget and Management 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 thereof, early consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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Representative
2nd District, Oriental Mindoro

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Introduced by Honorable **ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6959 AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 of 2019."

SECTION 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.

**SECTION 3. Provincial Science and Technology Offices
(PSTO).** - 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, through this Act, converted into Provincial Science and
Technology Offices (PSTO),

SECTION 4. *Functions of the PSTO.* - The Provincial Science and Technology Office shall perform the following functions:

- 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;
- d. Perform other functions as may be determined by the DOST Secretary.

SECTION 5. *Provincial Science and Technology Director.* - The present head of the PSTCs 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 exercise 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;

- e. Implement and monitor the technology promotion, transfer, and commercialization of projects of the DOST in the province;
- f. 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;
- g. Disseminate S&T-related information and R&D result through the conduct of trainings, symposia and/or other similar fora;
- h. Maintain effective liaison with the public and private academic institutions and other government agencies engaged in scientific and technological research, education, and training;
- i. 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;
- j. Coordinate with the DOST regional office and its regional development council for the promotion all S&T activities;
- k. Coordinate with public and private organizations in the implementation of human resource and institutional development programs in the province;
- l. Represent DOST in the inter-agency meetings, conferences, and other coordinative activities in the province;
- m. Undertake overall supervision and fiscal management of services and operations of the PSTO;
- n. Ensure that the quality of operational management system is in accordance with the ISO quality management standards;

- o. Enter into lawful contracts, memoranda of agreement, deeds, and the likes, with the heads of the colleges or universities designated as offices, local government units, other provincial offices of the NGAs, and other entities, either public or private, which may include matters of reporting and payment of honoraria to members of their faculty and staff; and
- p. Perform other related functions as may be assigned by the higher authorities from time to time.

SECTION 6. *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.

SECTION 7. *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.

SECTION 8. *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 with concurrence of 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.

SECTION 9. *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,

SECTION 10. *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.

SECTION 11. *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.

SECTION 12. *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.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 6959 as well as all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.