

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1100



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**Introduced by Representative Ron P. Salo**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has recognized the need to spur the country's global competitiveness. They have been attuned in formulating and adopting a comprehensive National Science and Technology Plan to promote, assist, and undertake appropriate scientific and technological research and development in areas identified as vital to the country's development. In view of this, there is a need to improve and empower the Filipinos in the rural areas in order for them to maximize their potential and capitalize on the opportunities provided by the government.

This bill seeks 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 in order to bridge the gap between the highly-urbanized cities and provinces by strengthening the provincial science and technology centers in the country.

This proposal seeks to upgrade the existing Provincial Science and Technology Centers of the DOST, which are the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas. The passage of this bill will accelerate the progress in the provinces to become competitive and be at par with the highly-urbanized cities in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.

  
**RON P. SALO**  
KABAYAN Partylist

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**AN ACT**  
**CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**CENTER INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE**  
**IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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.*”

**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) will act as the principal instruments of technology transfer and development of technology-based enterprises of the government in the rural areas to be converted to Provincial Science and Technology Office through this Act.

**SEC. 3. Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs).**—The Provincial Science and Technology offices 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 Directors.** — The present heads of the PSTOs with the designation of provincial science and technology officer and the position title of senior research specialist, with salary grade of nineteen (SG 19) shall be upgraded to the rank of provincial science and technology directors in each province with a salary grade of twenty-six (SG 26) under the DOST; Provided, further, that 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 provinces;
- c) Promote the adoption of the appropriate technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve operational efficiency and increase productivity to harness the results of scientific researchers and innovations to produce new and competitive products;
- d) Disseminate S&T related information and R&D results 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 the 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; and

- m) When applicable, designate from existing faculty and staff of the university, nominated by the head of the institution, the personnel of the office: Provided, however, That he may designate others who possess the necessary professional and/or technical qualifications and aptitude to work efficiently with the various sectors of the community.
- n) Authorize to enter into 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.
- o) Perform other related functions as may be assigned by the higher authorities.

**SEC. 5. Qualifications of the 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 upgraded position of the Provincial Science and Technology Director at salary grade twenty-six (SG 26). The current head of the PSTO holding the position for more than twenty (20) years, shall automatically be included in the selection for Provincial Science and Technology Director position: Provided, That the incumbent has met and complied with all the requirements.

**SEC. 6. Remuneration and other Benefits of the Provincial Director.**— The remuneration of the Provincial Science and Technology Director shall be equivalent to that of the same salary grade twenty-six (26) in the government service and shall be entitled to reimbursable 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 five (5) plantilla positions. In cases, when there is a need for additional staff, such shall be determined by the Provincial Director based on the population of the province. The DOST 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 regulations 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 and 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.*