



SENATE

S. No. 2484

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; CIVIL SERVICE, GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS REVILLA, BINAY, ANGARA, ZUBIRI AND VILLANUEVA AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER INTO THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE 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
2 the “Provincial Science and Technology Office Act.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy and
4 duty of the State to fast track the transfer of relevant and
5 appropriate technologies and services to the rural areas

1 particularly in the enhancement and development of
2 technology-based livelihood enterprises in the countryside.

3 SEC. 3. *Provincial Science and Technology Offices*
4 *(PSTOs)*. – The Provincial Science and Technology Centers
5 (PSTCs) of the Department of Science and Technology
6 (DOST) which are the principal instruments of technology
7 transfer and development of technology-based enterprises
8 of the government in the rural areas are converted into
9 Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs):
10 *Provided, That* the existing clustered area offices of the
11 DOST in the National Capital Region (NCR) shall also
12 serve as PSTO to be known as Clustered Area Science and
13 Technology Offices (CASTOs), subject to the evaluation
14 and approval of the Department of Budget and
15 Management (DBM) and existing civil service rules and
16 regulations.

17 SEC. 4. *Functions of the PSTOs*. – The PSTOs shall
18 have the following functions:

19 (a) Identify the needs and opportunities in Science
20 and Technology (S&T) in the provinces;

1 (b) Implement DOST programs and projects on
2 technology promotion and transfer, S&T human resource
3 development, S&T promotion and information
4 dissemination, delivery of technical and consultancy
5 services, and such other areas of concern that will benefit
6 the people in the provinces;

7 (c) Develop institutional linkages with provincial
8 offices of other departments local government units,
9 academe and nongovernmental offices for the effective
10 implementation of science and technology programs in the
11 provinces; and

12 (d) Perform other functions as may be determined by
13 the DOST Secretary and the Regional Director.

14 SEC. 5. *PSTO Head.* – The PSTO shall be headed by a
15 Chief Science Research Specialist with Salary Grade (SG)
16 24. For this purpose, the existing position of Senior Science
17 Research Specialist with SG 19 which is currently held by
18 the head of the PSTCs shall be reclassified as Chief Science
19 Research Specialist.

1 *SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of the PSTO Head. –*

2 The PSTO Head shall have the following duties and
3 responsibilities:

4 (a) Formulate the Provincial S&T Plan as well as
5 programs and projects designed to contribute to the
6 development of the province/clustered area;

7 (b) Implement and monitor the various technology
8 promotion and commercialization programs such as, but
9 not limited to, the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading
10 Program (SETUP) and the Community Empowerment
11 through Science and Technology (CEST);

12 (c) Promote the adoption of appropriate technologies
13 by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to
14 improve their operational efficiency and increase
15 productivity as well as to harness the results of scientific
16 research and innovations to produce new and competitive
17 products and services;

18 (d) Disseminate S&T-related information and
19 Research and Development (R&D) results through the
20 conduct of trainings, technology fora and similar activities;

1 (e) Maintain effective liaison with public and private
2 academic institutions and other government agencies
3 engaged in scientific and technological research,
4 technology transfer and commercialization, education, and
5 training;

6 (f) Coordinate with local government units (LGUs)
7 and academic institutions for the promotion of scholarship
8 programs aimed to attract science-oriented students to
9 pursue basic and applied sciences to broaden the S&T
10 human resource in the province/clustered area;

11 (g) Coordinate with public and private organizations
12 in the implementation of human resource and institutional
13 development programs in the province / clustered area;

14 (h) Promote science consciousness and appreciation
15 among the people of the province /clustered area;

16 (i) Serve as focal person for S&T inter-agency
17 meetings, conferences, and similar activities in the
18 province/clustered area;

19 (j) Perform over-all supervision of services and
20 operations of the PSTO;

1 (k) Ensure that appropriate quality management
2 systems are properly implemented and maintained in
3 accordance with international standards in all aspects of
4 operations of the PSTO; and

5 (l) Perform other related functions as may be
6 assigned by higher authorities from time to time.

7 SEC 7. *Staffing Pattern.* – The Secretary of DOST
8 shall determine the organizational structure and staffing
9 pattern of the PSTO in accordance with civil service laws,
10 rules, and regulations, subject to the review and approval
11 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

12 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount for the
13 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the
14 current year's appropriations of the DOST. Thereafter,
15 such amount shall be included in the Annual General
16 Appropriations Act.

17 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The
18 DOST, in consultation with concerned agencies and
19 stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and

1 regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from
2 effectivity of this Act.

3 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
4 Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other
5 provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force
6 and effect.

7 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, or parts thereof
8 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended,
9 repealed, or modified accordingly.

10 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
11 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
12 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,