



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8734

BY REPRESENTATIVES VARGAS, ROMERO, PINEDA, VILLAFUERTE, AUMENTADO, YU, UNGAB, SAMBAR, MARQUEZ, MARIÑO, NAVA, MANGAOANG, VELARDE, ABAYA, NIETO, MACEDA, ARCILLAS, SALCEDA, SARMIENTO (C.), LOPEZ (B.), LANETE, CUARESMA, SAVELLANO, ALEJANO, SALO, BELARO, DALIPE, BELMONTE (F.), BELMONTE (R.), ZAMORA (M.C.), VILLARICA, TAMBUNTING, SY-ALVARADO, FLOIRENDO, AGGABAO, SANDOVAL, BIAZON, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, LOBREGAT, DURANO, LIMKAICHONG, GO (M.), SALON, CAMINERO, ACOSTA-ALBA, DATOL, HERNANDEZ (P.) AND RODRIGUEZ (M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1013

AN ACT INCREASING THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S & T) PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S & T PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "SECTION 1. *SHORT Title.* - This Act shall be
4 known as the Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers,

1 Researchers and [O]ther SCIENCE AND
2 TECHNOLOGY (S & T) Personnel in the
3 Government.”

4 SEC. 2. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended
5 to read as follows:

6 “SEC. 7. *Other Benefits.* – Notwithstanding
7 [Section 12 of Republic Act No. 6758,] LAWS AND
8 ISSUANCES ON THE COMPENSATION AND POSITION
9 CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND SALARY
10 STANDARDIZATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, science and
11 technology personnel defined under Section 5 of [this
12 Act] REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, shall receive the
13 following:

14 “(a) *Honorarium.* – S & T personnel who rendered
15 services beyond the established [irregular] REGULAR
16 workload of scientists, technologists, researchers and
17 technicians whose broad and superior knowledge,
18 expertise or professional standing in a specific field
19 contributes to productivity and innovativeness shall be
20 entitled to receive honorarium subject to THE rules [to
21 be] AS set by the Department;

22 “THE GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A LIMIT ON
23 THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL HONORARIA THAT MAY BE
24 RECEIVED BY THE S & T PERSONNEL FROM EXTERNALLY
25 FUNDED GRANTS.

26 “x x x.”

27 SEC. 3. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby
28 amended to read as follows:

1 "SEC. 8. *Non-DOST S & T Personnel.* - S & T
2 personnel not employed by the Department, who are
3 involved in STA may avail of the benefits under this Act
4 upon certification of the [Secretary of the Department.]
5 HEAD OF THE AGENCY FOR WHICH THEY ARE CONDUCTING
6 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER SCIENTIFIC
7 AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES: *PROVIDED*, THAT
8 THE HEADS OF AGENCIES SHALL ABIDE BY THE
9 GUIDELINES PROMULGATED BY THE DOST FOR THE
10 CERTIFICATION OF NON-DOST PERSONNEL INVOLVED
11 WITH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR SCIENTIFIC
12 AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND THEIR
13 ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS PROVIDED IN THIS
14 ACT."

15 SEC. 4. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "SEC. 16. *Hiring of Retired Scientists and Technical*
18 *Personnel.* - An employee retired under any existing law,
19 who, in the judgment of the governing board or head of a
20 research agency, possesses technical qualifications and
21 the capability to undertake specific scientific research
22 activities, may be rehired on contractual basis without
23 refunding the unexpired portion of the gratuity and
24 accumulated leave benefits received [by him] from the
25 Government: *Provided*, That no qualified science and
26 technology expert is available to undertake said scientific
27 activities.

28 "THE SERVICES OF A SCIENTIST WHO IS DUE FOR
29 COMPULSORY RETIREMENT MAY BE EXTENDED FOR A
30 MAXIMUM PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS: *PROVIDED*, THAT

1 THE RESEARCH PROJECT IS WITHIN THE PRIORITY
2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE DOST
3 AND IS IDENTIFIED AS STRATEGIC TO NATIONAL
4 DEVELOPMENT AS CERTIFIED BY THE DOST SECRETARY:
5 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE SCIENTIST IS STILL
6 MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY FIT TO COMPLETE THE
7 PROJECT: *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT THE REQUEST FOR
8 EXTENSION OF SERVICES SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE
9 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL AT LEAST
10 THREE (3) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE
11 COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF THE SCIENTIST.

12 "SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE PERIOD OF
13 EXTENSION SHALL BE CREDITED AS PART OF
14 GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND SUCH EXTENSION SHALL
15 ENTITLE THE EMPLOYEE TO LEAVE CREDITS AND OTHER
16 BENEFITS."

17 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is
18 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall
19 remain valid and effective.

20 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and
21 issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the
22 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified
23 accordingly.

24 SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
25 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper
26 of general circulation.

Approved,