

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1013**

Submitted by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations on DEC 05 2018

Re: House Bill No. 8734

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1833, 5541 and 6670

Sponsors: Representatives Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Maria Carmen S. Zamora and Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang

**Madam Speaker:**

The Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations to which were referred House Bills No. 1833 introduced by Rep. Alfredo D. Vargas III, entitled:

**“AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS,  
ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT”**

House Bill No. 5541 introduced by Reps. Michael L. Romero, and Enrico A. Pineda, entitled:

**“AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
‘MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS,  
RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S&T PERSONNEL IN THE  
GOVERNMENT’, TO PROMOTE THEIR STATE OF WELL-  
BEING, TO FOSTER THE IMPOSITION OF ALL EXISTING  
DEVELOPMENTAL POLICIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

and House Bill No. 6670 introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay F. Villafuerte, Jr, entitled:


**“AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS,  
ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S&T PERSONNEL  
IN THE GOVERNMENT”**

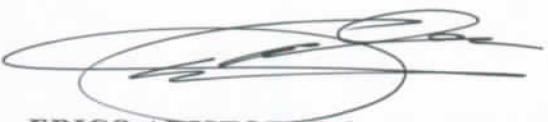
have considered the same and recommend the approval of House Bill No. 8734 in substitution of House Bill Nos. 1833, 5541 and 6670, entitled:

**“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”**

with Reps. Alfred D. Vargas, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Enrico A. Pineda, Luis Raymundo F. Villafuerte, Jr., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Divina Grace Yu, Alberto T. Ungab, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Carlito S. Marquez, , Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Mariano Michael M. Velarde, Jr., Francis Gerald A. Abaya, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Arlene B. Arcillas, Joey Sarte Salceda, Cesar V. Sarmiento, Benhur B. Lopez, Jr., Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Gary Alejano, Ron P. Salo, Salvador B. Belaro, Jr., Manuel Jose M. Dalipe, Feliciano Belmomte, Jr. Ricardo "Rj" T. Belmonte, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Gus S. Tambunting, Jose Antonio 'Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado Antonio R. Floirendo , Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Federico S. Sandoval II, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Corazon T. Nunez-Malanyaon, Celso L. Lobregat, Ramon "Red" Durano, VI, Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Mark O. Go, Orestes T. Salon, Wilfredo S. Caminero, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Francisco G. Datol, Jr, Paul P. Hernandez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr. as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

  
**HON. MARIA CARMEN S. ZAMORA , MNSA**  
Senior Vice Chairperson  
Committee on Appropriations

  
**ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO**  
Chairman  
Committee on Science and Technology

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

**8734**

**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 1833, 5541 and 6670)

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Introduced by Reps. Alfred D. Vargas, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Enrico A. Pineda, Luis Raymundo F. Villafuerte, Jr., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Divina Grace Yu, Alberto T. Ungab, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Carlito S. Marquez, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Mariano Michael M. Velarde, Jr., Francis Gerald A. Abaya, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Arlene B. Arcillas, Joey Sarte Salceda, Cesar V. Sarmiento, Benhur B. Lopez, Jr., Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Gary Alejano, Ron P. Salo, Salvador B. Belaro, Jr., Manuel Jose M. Dalipe, Feliciano Belmomte, Jr. Ricardo "Rj" T. Belmonte, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Gus S. Tambunting, Jose Antonio 'Kuya Jonathan' R. Sy-Alvarado, Antonio R. Floirendo, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Federico S. Sandoval II, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Corazon T. Nunez-Malanyaon, Celso L. Lobregat, Ramon "Red" Durano, VI, Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Mark O. Go, Orestes T. Salon, Wilfredo S. Caminero, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Francisco G. Datol, Jr., Paul P. Hernandez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

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**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 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "Section 1. **SHORT** Title – This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for  
3 Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (S & T)**  
4 Personnel in the Government"



1 Sec. 2. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "Section 7. Other Benefits – Notwithstanding [Section 12 of Republic Act  
3 No. 6758, otherwise known as the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of  
4 1989"] **LAWS AND ISSUANCES ON THE COMPENSATION AND POSITION**  
5 **CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND SALARY STANDARDIZATION IN THE**  
6 **GOVERNMENT**, Science & Technology (S&T) personnel defined under Section 5 of  
7 Republic Act No. 8439, shall receive the following:

8 (a) *Honorarium* – S&T personnel who rendered services beyond the  
9 established [irregular] **REGULAR** workload of scientists, technologists,  
10 researchers and technicians whose broad and superior knowledge,  
11 expertise on professional standing in a specific field contributes to  
12 productivity and innovativeness shall be entitled to receive honorarium  
13 subject to **THE** rules [to be] **AS** set by the Department;

14 **THE GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A LIMIT ON THE**  
15 **AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL HONORARIA THAT MAY BE RECEIVED**  
16 **BY THE S&T PERSONNEL FROM EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS.**

17 Sec. 3. Section 8 of RA 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 "Section 8. Non-DOST S&T personnel. - S&T personnel not employed by the  
19 Department, who are involved in STA may avail of the benefits under this Act upon  
20 certification of the [Secretary of the Department] **HEAD OF THE AGENCY FOR**  
21 **WHICH THEY ARE CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
22 **OR OTHER SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES: PROVIDED,**  
23 **THAT THE HEADS OF AGENCIES SHALL ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES**  
24 **PROMULGATED BY THE DOST FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF NON-DOST**  
25 **PERSONNEL INVOLVED WITH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR**  
26 **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND THEIR**  
27 **ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT".**

28 Sec. 4. Section 16 of RA 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 "Section 16. *Hiring of Retired Scientist and Technical Personnel.* - An employee  
30 retired under any existing law, who, in the judgment of the governing board or head of a  
31 research agency, possesses technical qualifications and the capability to undertake  
32 specific scientific research activities, may be rehired on contractual basis without  
33 refunding the unexpired portion of the gratuity and accumulated leave benefits received  
34 [by him] from the government: *Provided*, That no qualified science and technology  
35 expert is available to undertake said scientific activities.

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

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

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

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

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

24           *Approved,*

House of Representatives  
Committee Affairs Department

**FACT SHEET**

House Bill No. 8734

(In substitution to House Bills Numbered 1833, 5541 and 6670)

**AN ACT**

**INCREASING THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 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**

*Introduced by*

Committee Referral: ***Committee on Science and Technology***  
Committee Chairperson: ***Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado***

**OBJECTIVE:**

- To empower Filipino scientists with the end in view of expanding the country's pool of science and technology experts and motivate them to continue working for the country

**KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Mandates that there shall be no limit in the amount of honoraria that scientists can receive as compensation for internally or externally funded grants-in-aid provided that it does not entail any expense on the part of the government
- Allows the extension of the services of a scientist who is due for compulsory retirement for a maximum period of five (5) years provided that, in addition to the possession of mental and physical fitness, the project that the research project the scientist will undertake is among the priority research and development programs of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

**RELATED LAWS:**

- EO 130, series of 1993, "Instituting the Balik Scientist Program under the DOST"
- RA 8439, "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other S&T Personnel in Government"