

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'04 JUN 30 12:39

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SENATE  
S. B. No.           

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Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the importance of the disabled sector. For example, it established the National Commission for Disabled Persons to insure that the rights of the handicapped are protected, and that all programs and services are universal and accessible to all segments of society.

Although modern technology has created devices to cater to the special needs of handicapped persons, they still need assistance with communication facilities for the hearing-impaired and speech-impaired.

This bill seeks to make the national telecommunication system accessible to the hearing-impaired and speech-impaired.

The immediate passage of this bill is therefore earnestly solicited.

  
LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'04 JUN 30 R12:39

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SENATE

S. B. No. 1119

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Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ACCESSIBILITY TO THE**  
**HEARING-IMPAIRED AND SPEECH-IMPAIRED**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act."

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to provide handicapped persons protection and assistance to hasten their integration into the mainstream of society.

**SECTION 3. *Definition.*** -

- (a) "TDD" or Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf is a machine which employs graphic communications in the transmission of coded signals through the nationwide telecommunications system.
- (b) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of Transportation and Communications.

**SECTION 4. *National Telecommunications Systems Requirements*** - .

- (a) Accessibility of Telecommunication System. - The Department of

Transportation and Communications shall issue the necessary rules and regulation to assure that the national telecommunications system is fully accessible to hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals.

- (b) Specific Requirement – In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall -
- (1) provide for establishment of a relay system for users of TDD's;
  - (2) within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, expand such relay system by employing at least one additional operator;
  - (3) within 180 days after such date of enactment --
    - (A) conduct, as part of the rule-making proceeding required by subsection (a), analysis of modifications to the National Telecommunication System that the Secretary, in his discretion, determines to be necessary to achieve the objectives of subsection (a); and
    - (B) submit report on the results of such analysis to each House of the Congress.
  - (4) within 180 days after completion of such analysis, prescribe the regulations required by subsection (a);
  - (5) assemble, publish and maintain a directory of TDD and other devices used by national agencies to comply with such regulations, and publish in national agency directories, access numbers of TDD's and such other devices; and
  - (6) adopt the design of a standard logo to signify the presence of a TDD or other device used to comply with such regulations.

**SECTION 5. *Additional Requirements.* -**

- (a) Support for Research. – The Secretary shall seek to promote research by government agencies and private entities to reduce the cost and improve the capabilities of telecommunications devices

and systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals.

- (b) **Planning to Assimilate Technological Development** – The Secretary, in planning future alterations to and modifications of the National Telecommunications System, shall take into account results of the analysis required by section 4(b)(3) and any technological improvements in telecommunications devices and systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals.

SECTION 6. ***Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*