


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 JUL 10 P2:12

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2305

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY AND CREATING
FOR THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF
AUDIOLOGY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, UPGRADING
AUDIOLOGIC EDUCATION, INTEGRATING AUDIOLOGISTS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government, particularly the health sector has not given much attention to the practice of audiology. The lack of qualified audiologists in the country and the non-recognition of their profession have discouraged them to stay in the country and thus seek better employment opportunities abroad.

For instance, the Philippines has only two (2) formal training programs, with relatively low enrollment rate. Unfortunately, the graduates of these programs find employment outside the country where they gain the recognition they deserve. While we give recognition and importance to optometry in the field of vision, we have yet to recognize audiology as a profession in the Philippines.

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of Audiology and to create a Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology. It also seeks to upgrade audiologic education and integrate audiologists and audiometricians in order to safeguard and enhance healthy hearing as a regular component of the primary health care system.


This measure was previously filed by Sen. Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

14 JUL 10 P2:13

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, DEFINITION OF TERMS

1
2
3
4
5 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**Audiology Act of**
6 **2014**”.

7
8
9 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State recognizes the essential role of
10 audiology as a profession in safeguarding and enhancing the health and general
11 physical well-being of the citizenry. Audiologic services shall therefore be
12 promoted as a regular component of the primary health care system.

13
14
15 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
16 defined as follows:

- 17
18 (a) “Audiology” – the science and art of hearing, whether normal or
19 disordered, as a fundamental component of human communicatory
20 behavior; the development and application of effective strategies leading
21 to optimal use of sensory and oral expressive skills in hearing-impaired
22 children and adults; analyzing and evaluating the auditory function through
23 behavioral and physiologic tests; selecting, prescribing and dispensing
24 hearing aids, auditory assistive devices and their accessories and
25 solutions, and similar appliances and devices; using educational
26 techniques to enhance visual perception of speech (speech reading) and
27 to improve auditory discrimination; developing and maintaining optimal
28 speech and voice skills; counseling regarding educational, social or
29 vocational concerns that may occur as a consequence of hearing
30 impairment; and implementation of programs for hearing conservation,

1 and for the prevention of reduced auditory function; and other preventive
2 or corrective measures or procedures for the aid, correction, habilitation,
3 rehabilitation or relief of human hearing, or to attain optimum audition and
4 comfort;

- 5
- 6 (b) "Audiometry" – the measurement of hearing, including many procedures
7 and tests used to define the type, degree, and communicative
8 consequences of hearing loss; utilizing clinical hearing tests to evaluate
9 sensitivity and discrimination (acuity) aspects of audition; including, but not
10 limited to tone and speech audiometry based on behavioral responses,
11 electrophysiologic procedures, acoustic-impedance measures, loudness
12 recruitment, loudness adaptation, and tests of central auditory dysfunction;
13
- 14 (c) "Audiologist" – a natural person who, having satisfactorily completed an
15 academic program leading to at least a bachelor's degree in audiology or
16 its equivalent or higher degree, inclusive of at least 300 hours of
17 supervised clinical experience, followed by the equivalent of six months
18 full-time professional experience under the supervision of a certified
19 audiologist, has passed the national Board Examination in Audiology
20 administered by the Board of Audiology, and has been granted a
21 Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in audiology and registered with
22 the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as being qualified to
23 practice Audiology in the Philippines;
24
- 25 (d) "Audiologist in good standing" – a registered audiologist who is authorized
26 to practice the profession in the Philippines by virtue of a valid certificate
27 of registration and a valid professional license issued by the PRC for the
28 purpose;
29
- 30 (e) "Audiometrician" – a natural person who has not satisfactorily completed
31 an academic program leading to a bachelor's degree in audiology or its
32 equivalent; and has not passed the national Board Examination in
33 Audiology administered by the Board of Audiology, but by virtue of
34 accredited coursework and clinical experience has been accredited by the
35 Board of Audiology for the limited practice of Audiometry in the Philippines
36 under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing;
37
- 38 (f) "Audiometrician in good standing" – a qualified audiometrician who by
39 virtue of a valid certificate of accreditation in audiometry issued by the
40 Board of Audiology for the purpose is authorized in the limited practice of
41 audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an Audiologist in
42 good standing;
43
- 44 (g) "Certificate of registration" – a document signed by the Chair of the PRC
45 and by all members of the Board of Audiology and bearing its seal, issued
46 to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements for the practice of
47 audiology. It shall serve as proof that the registrant is qualified to practice
48 the respective professions in the Philippines;
49
- 50 (h) "Professional license" – a renewable card, issued by the PRC to a
51 registered audiologist, indicating that he / she is competent and authorized
52 to practice audiology in the Philippines. Until the loss of its validity or its
53 expiration, such license shall serve as evidence that its bearer is an
54 audiologist or audiometrician in good standing;
55
- 56 (i) "Certificate of Accreditation" – a document signed by all members of the
57 Board of Audiology and bearing its seal, issued to an applicant who has

1 satisfied the requirements for the limited practice of audiometry in the
2 Philippines under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing. It
3 shall serve as proof that the person is accredited for the limited practice of
4 audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an Audiologist in
5 good standing;

- 6
7 (j) "Code of professional ethics" – a set of standards relating to the conduct,
8 integrity and moral duties of audiologists, as prescribed by the Philippine
9 Society of Audiology as the duly integrated and accredited national
10 organization of audiologists, and adopted and promulgated by the Board
11 of Audiology upon approval by the PRC.
12

13
14 **ARTICLE II**
15 **THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY**
16

17
18 **SEC. 4.** *Acts Constituting the Practice of Audiology.* – Any of the following acts
19 constitute the practice of Audiology:
20

- 21 (a) The analysis and evaluation of human auditory function through the
22 employment of clinical subjective (behavioral) and objective (physiologic)
23 procedures and tests to measure hearing and define the type, degree, and
24 communicative consequences of hearing loss; including the use of specific
25 instruments, tools, equipment, implements, aids, apparatuses, machines,
26 exercises and related devices, for the purpose of determining the
27 condition, sensitivity and discrimination (acuity) of human hearing to
28 correct and improve the same when not medically or surgically treatable,
29 in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d) hereof;
30
31 (b) The selection, prescription and dispensing of hearing aids, auditory
32 assistive devices and their accessories and solutions, and supplies for the
33 purpose of correcting and treating defects, deficiencies and abnormalities
34 of audition that are not medically or surgically treatable;
35
36 (c) The use of educational techniques to enhance visual perception of speech
37 (speech reading) and to improve auditory discrimination, developing and
38 maintaining optimal speech and voice skills; conduct of auditory exercises
39 and hearing habilitation and rehabilitation, the provision of other
40 measures, devices and procedures to aid, correct, habilitate, rehabilitate
41 or relieve abnormalities of human audition and attain optimum audition
42 and comfort except those that should be medically or surgically provided;
43
44 (d) The counseling of patients regarding educational, social or vocational
45 concerns that may occur as a consequence of hearing impairment; and
46 implementation of programs for hearing conservation, and for the
47 prevention of reduced auditory function;
48
49 (e) The establishment of offices, clinics, and similar places where audiologic
50 services are offered; and,
51
52 (f) The collection of professional fees for the performance of any of the acts
53 mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section.
54
55

56 **SEC. 5.** *Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Audiology.* – No person
57 shall practice audiology as defined in Section 3 of this Act nor perform any of the

1 acts constituting the practice of audiology as set forth in Section 4 hereof, without
2 having been first admitted to the practice of this profession under the provisions
3 of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations; *Provided*, That this
4 prohibition shall not apply to regularly licensed and duly registered physicians
5 who have received post-graduate training in the diagnosis and treatment of
6 hearing disorders and ear diseases; *Provided, however*, That the examination of
7 the human ear and auditory apparatus by duly registered physicians in
8 connection with the physical examination of patients shall not be considered as
9 practice of audiology; *Provided, further*, That the evaluation and management of
10 speech and voice functions and dysfunctions by speech pathologists, therapists
11 and phoniatrists shall not be considered as the practice of audiology; *Provided,*
12 *further*, That public health workers and health care providers trained and involved
13 in the government's "Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program for the
14 Prevention, Early Diagnosis and Intervention of Hearing Loss" or Republic Act
15 No. 9709 and other hearing conservation programs may conduct only specific
16 hearing acuity tests and hearing screening; *Provided, further*, That
17 audiometricians in good standing may only perform their limited duties and
18 services under supervision of an audiologist in good standing.
19
20

21 **SEC. 6. *Disclosure of Authority to Practice.*** – An audiologist shall be required to
22 indicate his or her professional license number and the date of its expiration in
23 the documents he or she issues or signs in connection with the practice of his or
24 her profession. He / she shall also display his or her certificate of registration in a
25 conspicuous area of his or her clinic or office.
26
27

28 **ARTICLE III**
29 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY**
30
31

32 **SEC. 7. *The Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology.*** – There is hereby
33 created a Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology, hereinafter referred to as
34 the Board, composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the
35 President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the PRC, from a list of
36 ten (10) nominees submitted by the duly integrated and accredited national
37 organization of audiologists, the Philippine Society of Audiology.
38
39

40 **SEC. 8. *Minimum Qualifications of Board Members.*** – Only person who
41 possesses the following qualifications may be nominated and appointed to the
42 Board:
43

- 44 (a) A natural-born citizen of the Philippines;
45
46 (b) A duly registered audiologist in good standing holding a valid Certificate of
47 Registration; *Provided*, That in the case of the first members of the Board
48 of Audiology, they shall be issued Certificates of Registration as
49 Audiologists without prior examination;
50
51 (c) At least thirty-five (35) years of age at the time of his or her appointment;
52
53 (d) Of good moral character; and,
54
55 (e) In active practice of the profession for at least ten (10) years prior to his or
56 her appointment: *Provided*, That for purposes of creating the initial Board,
57 active practice of the profession for at least five (5) years prior to his or her

1 appointment will suffice; *Provided further*, That a person who is a member
2 of the faculty, whether full time, part time or lecturer of any school, college
3 or university where a regular course in audiology is taught, or who has any
4 pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in such an institution must forego
5 his or her membership in said faculty or relinquish his or her interests in
6 said institution before or upon taking his or her oath as a member of the
7 Board; *Provided, further*, That an incumbent officer of the Philippine
8 Society of Audiology or any audiologic association is disqualified from
9 concurrently being appointed to or serving in the Board.

10
11
12 **SEC. 9. *Term of Office.*** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a non-
13 renewable term of five (5) years, starting on the date of appointment and until
14 their successors shall have been appointed; *Provided, however*, That the first
15 appointees to the Board shall hold office as follows: the chairperson for five (5)
16 years and the four (4) other members for fixed terms of four (4), three (3), two
17 (2), and one (1) year/s, such that the term of one member shall be due to expire
18 every year. Thereafter, one member shall be appointed for the full term every
19 year and such member, in the last year of his or her term, shall automatically
20 become the chairperson of the Board. Vacancies brought about by reasons other
21 than expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.

22
23
24 **SEC. 10. *Removal or Suspension of Board Members.*** – Any member of the
25 Board, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself or herself in a
26 proper administrative investigation conducted by the PRC, may be removed by
27 the President of the Philippines for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, or
28 unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct. During the process
29 of investigation, the President of the Philippines may suspend such member
30 under investigation for a period of not more than sixty (60) days and appoint a
31 temporary member in his place.

32
33
34 **SEC. 11. *Compensation of Board Members.*** – The members of the Board shall
35 each receive compensation in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
36 Professional Regulatory Commission.

37
38
39 **SEC. 12. *Functions and Powers of the Board.*** – The Board is hereby vested with
40 authority to:

- 41
42 (a) Promulgate the rules and regulations for the practice of audiology, subject
43 to the approval of the PRC and in accordance with the provisions of this
44 Act;
45
46 (b) Administer and enforce the rules and regulations specified in the
47 preceding sections;
48
49 (c) Determine, prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi and contents of,
50 and questions for licensure examinations, adopt measures to ensure the
51 integrity thereof, correct and rate the examination papers and submit the
52 results thereof to the PRC;
53
54 (d) Formulate and oversee, in consultation and coordination with the PRC,
55 guidelines for the proper conduct of licensure examinations and the
56 registration of audiologists as well as the accreditation of audiometricians;
57

- 1 (e) Issue, suspend, revoke and reissue certificates of registration of qualified
2 audiologists and renew their professional licenses and issue, suspend,
3 revoke and reissue certificates of accreditation of audiometricians;
4
- 5 (f) Impose reasonable requirements and conditions, such as attendance in
6 continuing education activities and programs, for the renewal of an
7 audiologist's license to practice and for the purpose of upgrading the
8 professional competence of audiologists and audiometricians;
9
- 10 (g) Maintain a registry of audiologists and audiometricians in good standing;
11
- 12 (h) Adopt, promulgate and disseminate the Code of Ethics for the practice of
13 audiology in the Philippines;
14
- 15 (i) Administer oaths in connection with the implementation of this Act;
16
- 17 (j) Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against
18 practitioners of audiology for malpractice, unethical and unprofessional
19 conduct, and violations of this Act or its implementing rules and
20 regulations, and in connection therewith, issue subpoena *ad testificandum*
21 and subpoena *duces tecum* and punish with contempt persons
22 obstructing, impeding and/or otherwise interfering with the conduct of such
23 proceedings;
24
- 25 (k) Conduct ocular inspections of establishments and/or premises where
26 audiologic services are offered to ascertain that professional standards
27 are complied with;
28
- 29 (l) Upon application, to issue an order enjoining or abating the illegal practice
30 of audiology by unqualified persons;
31
- 32 (m) Impose fines and penalties, after due process and in accordance with the
33 provision of this Act, for causes provided for by law or by the rules and
34 regulations promulgated therefor;
35
- 36 (n) Evaluate periodically the status of audiologic education and recommend
37 and/or adopt measures to upgrade and maintain its high standards; and,
38
- 39 (o) Study the conditions affecting the practice of audiology in all parts of the
40 Philippines, and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be
41 deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and high professional
42 standards of audiologic practice.
43
44

45 **SEC. 13. Quorum in Board Meetings.** – The attendance of three (3) members
46 shall constitute a quorum for the Board to officially transact business.
47
48

49 **SEC. 14. Votes Required in Administrative Cases.** – To render a decision in an
50 administrative case for unethical practice, malpractice, immorality, dishonesty,
51 and related charges affecting the professional fitness and integrity of an
52 audiologist or audiometrician, the vote of three (3) members must be obtained;
53 *Provided, That* in case members are disqualified to vote by virtue of their relation
54 to or interest in any of the parties or voluntarily inhibits themselves from
55 participating in the proceedings, the Board shall designate, with the approval of
56 the Commission, an audiologist in good standing who is respected in the

1 audiologic community for their probity and integrity to sit in the Board, participate
2 in the proceedings and vote on the case.

3
4
5 **SEC. 15.** *Supervision of the Board and Custody of its Records.* – The members
6 of the Board shall be under the general supervision of the PRC. All records,
7 including examination papers, examination results, minutes of deliberations,
8 records of administrative cases and investigation of the Board shall be kept by
9 the said Commission.

10
11
12 **SEC. 16.** *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the end of each calendar year,
13 submit to the Commission an annual report of its activities and proceedings
14 during the year. Other information or data may be requested by the Commission
15 as often as may be necessary and practicable.

16
17
18 **SECTION IV**
19 **THE AUDIOLOGY BOARD EXAMINATIONS**
20

21
22 **SEC. 17.** *Licensure Examination.* – Every applicant seeking to be registered as
23 an audiologist shall undergo an examination as provided in this Act.
24 Examinations for the practice of audiology or limited practice of audiometry in the
25 Philippines shall be given by the Board at least once every year in such places
26 and dates as the PRC may designate.

27
28
29 **SEC. 18.** *Scope of Examination.* – The Board of Audiology shall prescribe the
30 scope and prepare the contents of the licensure examinations. In the discharge
31 of this function, the Board shall take into account recent developments in
32 audiology and audiometry as well as the academic standards imposed by the
33 Commission on Higher Education on educational institutions which offer a course
34 in audiology.

35
36
37 **SEC. 19.** *Requirements for Examination of Applicants.* – To be eligible to take
38 the licensure examination in audiology, the applicant must be:

- 39
40 (a) A Filipino citizen;
41
42 (b) Of good moral character;
43
44 (c) A holder of at least the degree of Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of
45 Science (B.Sc.) in Audiology or its equivalent or higher degree (such as
46 Master in Clinical Audiology, M.Clin.Aud.; Master of Audiology, M.Aud.;
47 Doctor of Audiology, Au. D.; Doctor of Philosophy in Audiology, PhD; or
48 Doctor of Science in Audiology, D.Sc.) obtained from a school, college,
49 university or institution duly accredited or recognized by the government,
50 with coursework inclusive of the following minimum basic subject areas:
51 mathematics; human biology; chemistry; biochemistry; physics;
52 psychology; sociology; history, English and Filipino; and the following
53 Audiology Major Subject areas: anatomy and physiology of speech and
54 hearing; basic acoustics for speech and hearing; introduction to disorders
55 of speech and hearing processes (pathophysiology); introduction to
56 audiology, hearing loss and audiometry; normal speech and language
57 acquisition and development; introduction to language and communication

1 disorders; psychology of language; clinical methods in audiology; aural
2 habilitation, rehabilitation and amplification; Philippine sign language;
3 audiology ethics and jurisprudence; audiology economics and practice
4 management; environmental and public health audiology; pediatric
5 audiology; audiology practicum one and two and audiology research
6 methods.

7
8
9 **SEC. 20. *Minimum Passing Level.*** – In order for a candidate to be considered to
10 have successfully passed the examination, he or she must have obtained a
11 general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in all subjects, with no
12 rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject.

13
14
15 **SEC. 21. *Report of the Result of the Examination.*** – The Board shall report the
16 ratings obtained by each candidate to the PRC within sixty (60) days after the
17 last examination day, unless extended by the Commission. The PRC shall cause
18 the publication of the names of successful candidates in alphabetical order,
19 without the ratings obtained by each, within sixty (60) days of the date the
20 Commission receives the aforementioned report from the Board.

21
22
23 **SEC. 22. *Additional Requirement for Reexamination.*** – Any applicant who, for
24 the third time, fails to pass the board examination shall not be allowed to take the
25 next succeeding examination without submitting to the Board proof that he or she
26 has taken a refresher course in a duly accredited institute.

27
28
29 **SECTION V**
30 **REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE OF AUDIOLOGISTS**

31
32
33 **SEC. 23. *Oath of Audiologists.*** – All successful examinees shall be required to
34 take their oath before the Board or before any person authorized to administer
35 oaths prior to the issuance of the certificate of registration: Provided, however,
36 That the applicant is not disqualified under any of the provisions of Section 24
37 hereof.

38
39
40 **SEC. 24. *Disqualification.*** – The following applicants shall not be allowed to take
41 their oath as audiologists nor issued certificates of registration:

- 42
43 (a) Those who do not possess the qualifications set forth in Section 19 of this
44 Act;
45
46 (b) Those who fail to pass the Audiology Board licensure examination;
47
48 (c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving
49 moral turpitude by any court;
50
51 (d) Those who have been found guilty by the Board of immoral or
52 dishonorable conduct; and,
53
54 (e) Those who have been declared to be of unsound mind.

55
56 Such fact of disqualification shall be communicated by the Board to the applicant
57 by written statement, which statement shall form part of the records of the Board.

1
2
3 **SEC. 25. Registration.** – The PRC shall register successful examinees who have
4 taken their oath and thereafter grant them professional licenses to practice
5 audiology. The certificate of registration shall be considered as evidence that the
6 registrant is qualified to practice audiology in the Philippines.
7

8
9 **SEC. 26. Registration Without Taking Licensure Examination.** – A person who
10 possesses the pertinent qualifications listed below pursuant to the provisions of
11 this Act may be registered without examination:
12

13 (a) Was a doctoral, masters or bachelors degree holder in Audiology from a
14 recognized institution with at least three (3) years of teaching Audiology
15 courses and/or audiology practice in the Philippines for the same period;
16 or,
17

18 (b) Was a PRC duly-registered Doctor of Medicine in the Philippines and fully
19 certified Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology Head and
20 Neck Surgery with at least five (5) years clinical experience in the practice
21 of audiology in the Philippines; or,
22

23 (c) Had passed at least eighteen (18) units of tertiary level (doctoral, masteral
24 or baccalaureate) courses in Audiology and had at least seven (7) years of
25 clinical experience in audiology.
26

27 *Provided,* That the applicant files with the Board within three (3) years after its
28 creation, an application for registration, issuance of a Certificate of Registration
29 and Professional Identification Card by submitting credentials showing that the
30 applicant was a member of good standing in the Philippine Society of Audiology
31 for three years before the effectivity of this Act.
32

33
34 **SEC. 27. Accreditation.** – The Board of Audiology shall grant certificates of
35 accreditation for the limited practice audiometry to successful examinees. It shall
36 serve as proof that the person is accredited for the limited practice of audiometry
37 in the Philippines under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing.
38

39
40 **SEC. 28. Revocation of Certificates and Suspension of Professional Licenses.** –
41 The Board may, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned,
42 revoke an audiologist's certificate of registration or suspend his or her license to
43 practice for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of
44 any of the provisions of this Act or its rules and regulations, or upon the
45 conviction of the audiologist of a crime involving moral turpitude. The same
46 applies to an audiometrician's certificate of accreditation.
47

48
49 **SEC. 29. Appeals.** – The revocation of a certificate or suspension of a
50 professional license by the Board shall become final unless appealed to the PRC
51 within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision.
52

53
54 **SEC. 30. Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificates.** – The
55 Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient,
56 reinstate any suspended certificate of registration or accreditation, or issue

1 another certificate in lieu of one previously revoked, and in so doing it may, in its
2 discretion, exempt the applicant from taking another examination.

3
4 A new certificate to replace any certificate lost, destroyed or mutilated may be
5 issued subject to the rules that may be implemented by the Board.

6
7
8 **SEC. 31. *Renewal of Professional Licenses.*** – All licenses shall be renewable
9 every three (3) years and shall be considered renewed only upon satisfying the
10 requirements imposed by the Board, such as attendance in continuing education
11 programs and payment of the corresponding fees as may be fixed by the Board
12 in accordance with the schedule of fees fixed by the PRC.

13
14
15 **SECTION VI**
16 **AUDIOLOGIC EDUCATION**

17
18
19 **SEC. 32. *The Technical Panel on Audiological Education.*** – To attain the
20 objective of upgrading Audiologic education in the Philippines, the Commission
21 on Higher Education, pursuant to Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7722 shall,
22 within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, convene and organize a
23 technical panel on audiologic education. For this purpose, senior practitioners,
24 specialists, academicians in the field of audiology and a representative from the
25 Philippine Society of Audiology as the accredited national organization of
26 audiologists shall be appointed and tapped to assist in the following:

- 27
28 (a) Setting a minimum standard curriculum for the study of audiology to be
29 implemented in all schools offering audiology as an undergraduate course
30 and degree;
31
32 (b) Establishing teaching standards, including the qualifications of members
33 of the faculty of schools and colleges of audiology;
34
35 (c) Monitoring the progress of the program on the study of audiology and
36 undertaking measures or the attainment of a high quality of audiologic
37 education in the country; and,
38
39 (d) Evaluating periodically the performance of educational institutions offering
40 audiologic education for the purpose of granting accreditation and
41 incentives as well as for the imposition of sanctions when warranted.

42
43
44 **SECTION VII**
45 **PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES**

46
47
48 **SEC. 33. *Prohibited Acts.*** – The following acts are prohibited:

- 49
50 (a) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member
51 thereof for the purpose of obtaining a certification of registration or a
52 professional license;
53
54 (b) Assumption, use or advertisement by a person, not holding a valid
55 certificate of registration and a valid professional license in accordance
56 with this Act, of a description, in connection with his name or title, tending
57 to convey the impression that he or she is a duly registered audiologist;

- 1
2 (c) Any form of advertisement in media outlets giving information and
3 impression to the public that the particular audiologist is better than the
4 others, is collecting lower professional fees or selling cheaper hearing aids
5 or devices;
6
7 (d) Engaging in unauthorized practice of audiology as defined in Section 5 of
8 this Act; and,
9
10 (e) Violation by any person, whether natural or juridical, of any of the
11 provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated for its
12 effective implementation.
13
14

15 **SEC. 34. Penal Provisions.** – The commission of any of the prohibited acts listed
16 in the immediately preceding section shall be punished with imprisonment of not
17 less than one (1) year but not more than eight (8) years, or a fine of not less than
18 Fifty Thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand
19 pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.
20

21 In addition, the administrative penalties specified in Section 27 hereof shall be
22 imposed whenever applicable. (Check does this refer to Section 28).
23

24 If the violation is committed by an association, partnership, corporation or any
25 other institution, the managing officers and other persons responsible for its
26 commission shall be liable for the penalties provided for in this Act.
27
28

29 **SECTION VIII**
30 **PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS**
31

32
33 **SEC. 35. Foreign Reciprocity.** – No foreigner shall be admitted to the audiology
34 board examinations unless he or she proves in the manner prescribed by the
35 Rules of Court that by specific provision of law, the country of which he / she is a
36 citizen, subject or national, either admits Filipino citizens to the practice of
37 audiology without restriction, or allows them to practice audiology after an
38 examination on terms of strict and absolute equality with citizens, subjects or
39 nationals of said country, including the unconditional recognition of prerequisite
40 degrees prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education; *Provided,*
41 *however,* That the Board, upon approval by the PRC, may grant a special permit
42 to a foreign audiologist to practice the profession in this country whether or not
43 reciprocity exists between his or her country and the Philippines and under such
44 conditions as may be determined by the Board, if such foreigner is internationally
45 known to be an outstanding expert in the profession or a well-known specialist in
46 any of its branches, and that his or her services will promote the advancement of
47 the profession in the Philippines. The Board is also hereby authorized to
48 prescribe, upon approval by the PRC, additional requirements or grant certain
49 privileges to foreigners, seeking registration in the Philippines if the same
50 privileges are granted to or some additional requirements are required of citizens
51 of the Philippines in acquiring the same certificate in his country.
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54 **SEC. 36. Rules and Regulations.** – The Board shall set professional standards
55 for the practice of audiology in the Philippines and adopt such rules and
56 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, subject to
57 the approval of the PRC. Such standards, rules and regulations shall take effect

1 thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of
2 general circulation.

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5 **SEC. 37. *Integration of Audiologists.*** – In order for every audiologist to contribute
6 to his or her profession and to bear his or her share of professional
7 responsibilities, all audiologists shall be encouraged to join and be integrated into
8 one national organization, the Philippine Society of Audiology, which shall be
9 recognized by the Board and the PRC. Every audiologist, upon registration with
10 the Board, may become a member of the integrated national organization.
11 Those who have been registered with the Board before the effectivity of this Act
12 may register as members of the integrated organization within three (3) years
13 after said effectivity.

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16 **SEC. 38. *Purposes.*** – The integrated national organization of Audiologists –
17 Philippine Society of Audiology shall promulgate the Code of Ethics for the
18 practice of the profession, define the professional responsibilities of its members,
19 ensure adherence to said professional ethics and responsibilities, improve the
20 standards of the profession and enable all audiologists to discharge their public
21 responsibility more effectively.

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24 **SEC. 39. *Membership Fees and Dues.*** – All members shall be subject to the
25 payment of reasonable fees and dues for the effective discharge of the purposes
26 of the integrated national organization, the Philippine Society of Audiology. An
27 audiologist shall receive the benefits and privileges appurtenant to his or her
28 membership only upon payment of the required membership fees and dues.

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31 **SEC. 40. *Other Organizations.*** – The integration of audiologists into one national
32 organization - the Philippine Society of Audiology, shall not prohibit the creation
33 of other associations of audiologists organized by individual audiologists
34 themselves.

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37 **SEC. 41. *Code of Professional Ethics.*** – The Board shall adopt the Professional
38 Code of Ethics promulgated by the integrated national organization of
39 audiologists – the Philippine Society of Audiology; *Provided*, That such Code
40 provides that it is the duty of an audiologist to:

- 41
- 42 (a) Consider as his or her primary responsibility the auditory welfare of the
43 public;
 - 44
 - 45 (b) Promote the best possible standards of professional care;
 - 46
 - 47 (c) Enhance continuously his or her theoretical and practical proficiency;
 - 48
 - 49 (d) Render his or her services with equal diligence to all, regardless of race,
50 creed or status;
 - 51
 - 52 (e) Respect the confidential nature of information concerning those he or she
53 serves; and,
 - 54
 - 55 (f) Refer for medical or other professional attention where the need is
56 indicated.
 - 57

1 The Board shall also distribute the Code of Ethics of the Audiologic Profession in
2 the Philippines to all new audiologists during their oath-taking.

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4 Any act or omission which violates this Code shall be considered as unethical
5 conduct and shall be suspended or prohibited from the practice of audiology, in
6 accordance with Section 28 of this Act.

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9 **SECTION IX**
10 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

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13 **SEC. 42. *Funding Provisions.*** – The Chairperson of the Commission shall
14 include in the Commission’s programs the implementation of this Act, the funding
15 of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

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18 **SEC. 43. *Assistance of Law Enforcement Agency.*** – Any law enforcement
19 agency shall, upon call or request of the Commission or the Board, render
20 assistance in enforcing this Act, including all the rules and regulations
21 promulgated thereunder by prosecuting the violators thereof in accordance with
22 law and the Rules of Court.

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25 **SEC. 44. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the
26 effectivity of this Act and subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board
27 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, in coordination with the
28 integrated and accredited professional organization (the Philippine Society of
29 Audiology), to implement the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after
30 fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or two Philippine
31 newspapers of general circulation.

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34 **SEC. 45. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be
35 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such
36 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

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39 **SEC. 46. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent
40 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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43 **SEC. 47. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
44 following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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50 *Approved,*