

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

15 JUL 19 11:14

SENATE

S. No. 462

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV


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AN ACT  
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Speech Language Pathology is a profession devoted to study and help the children and adults who may have difficulty with communication, speech, and language or swallowing disorder diseases.

This bill seeks so promote the development of the profession of speech pathology and increase the competence of speech pathologists by institutionalizing preventive regulatory measures, programs and activities that will foster their continuing professional growth.

In view of the forgoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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

ARTICLE I  
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "*Speech Language*  
2       *Pathology Act of 2016*".

3  
4       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** The State recognizes the important role of  
5       speech language pathologists in nation building and promotes the sustained  
6       development of a reservoir of speech language pathologists whose competence have  
7       been determined by honest and credible licensure examinations whose standards of  
8       professional practice and service are world-class and internationally-recognized,  
9       globally competitive through preventive regulatory measures, programs, and activities  
10      that foster their continuing, professional growth.

11  
12      **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** -As used in this Act:

13  
14      a) "Speech Language Pathology" shall mean an allied medical profession  
15      devoted to the evaluation, diagnosis, management and prevention of human  
16      communication disorder.

17  
18      b) "Speech Language Pathologist" shall mean a person who is registered and  
19      licensed to practice speech language pathology and who holds a valid  
20      certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification

card issued by the Professional Regulation Commission under the provisions of this Act.

c) "Communication Disorder" shall mean impairment in the ability to (1) receive and/or process symbol systems; (2) represents concepts in systems; (3) transmit and use symbol systems. The impairment may be observed in the disorders of hearing, language and/or speech processes.

d) "Evaluation" shall mean the global appraisal of the significance and implications of a diagnostic assessment that shall include formal and informal assessment.

(e) "Diagnosis" shall mean the act of identifying a human communication or swallowing abnormality or disorder by analyzing the symptoms presented. It may also include a study of the origin and development of the symptoms.

(f) "Language" is any socially and culturally accepted, structured, symbolic system for interpersonal communication composed of sounds, letters, manual sign or other symbols arranged in ordered sequences or strings that express thoughts, intentions, experiences and feelings comprised of orthographic, phonological, syntactical, semantic and pragmatic components.

(g) "Speech" shall mean the medium of oral communication that employs a linguistic code (language); through this medium, one can express thoughts and feelings and understand those of others who employ the same code.

## ARTICLE II THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

**SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.*** Within ninety days after the effectivity of this Act, there shall be created the Professional Regulatory Board of Speech Language Pathology, hereinafter referred to as the Board under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairperson and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the three (3)

1 recommendees for each vacant position chosen from the five nominees of the  
2 integrated and accredited national organization of speech language pathologist.

3  
4 **SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.*** - To be the Chairperson  
5 or a member of the Board, one must at the time of higher appointment be:

6  
7 a) A natural born citizen of the Philippines and an actual resident thereof for at  
8 least five (5) years before his/her appointment;

9  
10 b) A duly registered and licensed speech language pathologist holding a valid  
11 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification  
12 card, in active practice for the past five (5) years and a member in good  
13 standing of the accredited integrated national organization of speech language  
14 pathologists prior to his/her appointment, except if appointed the first  
15 Chairperson/member;

16  
17 c) Of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any offense  
18 involving moral turpitude; and

19  
20 d) Must not have pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school,  
21 academy, college, university or institution conferring an academic degree  
22 necessary for administration to the practice of speech language pathology or  
23 where review classes in preparation for the licensure examination are being  
24 offered or conducted, nor shall he/she be a member of the faculty or of the  
25 administration thereof at the time of his/her appointment to the Board.

26  
27 **SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall have the  
28 authority to:

29  
30 a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary for  
31 carrying out the provisions of this Act;

32  
33 b) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;

34  
35 c) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of speech  
36 language pathology in the Philippines;

37  
38 d) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

- e) Maintain a roster of speech language pathologists indicating therein the basic information about the registered professionals;
- f) Study the conditions affecting the practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines and adopt measures for the enhancement of the professional ethical and technical standards therein;
- g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all educational institutions offering speech language pathology education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for the practice of speech language pathology;
- i) Standards for the practice of speech language pathology; Issue, reinstate, suspend, revoke certificate of registration and/or professional license or cancel special permits for the practice of speech language pathology;
- j) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program for speech language pathologist;
- k) In consultation with the duly accredited organization of speech language pathologist and the duly recognized association of schools conferring a Bachelor's or other entry level degree in Speech Language Pathology, prescribe the area of competence to be included in the computerized licensure examination and their relative weights, determined the syllabi of the subjects, construct the test questions in licensure examination, score and rate examination papers;
- l) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics for speech language pathologists, and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena duces tecum* and/or *ad testificandum* to secure the appearance of the witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith: Provided, that the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of the judgment or decision;

- 1 m) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure  
2 examination;  
3  
4 n) Grant registration without examination subject to the approval by the  
5 Commission;  
6  
7 o) Issue and/or cancel special permits to persons admitted to the practice of  
8 speech language pathology for a specific duration of time, and  
9 certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches and  
10 accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and  
11  
12 p) Perform such other powers and functions as it may deem necessary to  
13 carry out the objectives of this Act.  
14

15 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued or promulgated by the  
16 Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission.  
17  
18

19 **SEC. 7. Term of Office.** - The Chairperson and members of the Board shall  
20 hold office for three (3) years after appointment or until their successors shall have  
21 been appointed and duly qualified; *Provided*, that members of the first Board to be  
22 appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms:  
23 Chairperson for three (3) years, one member for two (2) years, and the other member  
24 for one (1) years: *Provided, further*, that the Chairperson or any member may be re-  
25 appointed for another term of three (3) years but in no case shall he/she serve  
26 continuously for more than six (6) years. Vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the  
27 unexpired term only. Each member of the Board shall automatically be registered as  
28 speech language pathologists and issued certificate of registration/professional license  
29 and professional identification card and shall take the proper oath of office prior to  
30 assumption.  
31  
32

33 **SEC. 8. Compensation of the Members of the Professional Regulatory**  
34 **Boards.** - The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and  
35 allowances comparable to that being received by the Chairpersons and members of  
36 existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the annual  
37 General Appropriations Act.

1       **SEC. 9. *Suspension and/or Removal of Board Members.*** – Any member of  
2 the Board may be suspended or removed from office for gross neglect of duty,  
3 incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable  
4 conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulation or  
5 rigging of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential  
6 information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination  
7 or tampering of grades.

8  
9       The administrative proceedings shall be heard by the Commission, whose  
10 recommendation shall be submitted to the Office of the President. During the  
11 investigation, the respondent shall be placed under preventive suspension by the  
12 Commission and another designated to fill the temporary vacancy in the Board.

13  
14  
15       **SEC. 10. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat***  
16 ***and Support Services.*** - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of  
17 the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination,  
18 and administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board shall be  
19 under the custody of the Commission.

20  
21       The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide  
22 the secretariat and other support services to implement the provision of this Act.

23  
24  
25       **SEC. 11. *Annual Report.*** - The Board shall submit an annual report to the  
26 Commission after the close of each calendar year, giving a detailed account of the  
27 proceedings of the Board during the year and recommending measures to be adopted,  
28 with the end in view of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting the practice  
29 of speech language pathology in the Philippines.

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31  
32                                   **ARTICLE III**  
33                           **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**  
34

35       **SEC. 12. *Examination Required.*** - All applicants for registration for the  
36 practice of speech language pathology shall be required to undergo a licensure  
37 examination to be given by the Board in such places and dates as the Commission  
38 may designate subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the  
39 Commission.

1       **SEC. 13. *Qualification for Examination.*** - In order to be allowed to take part  
2 in the licensure examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing of higher  
3 , application, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she has met the following  
4 qualifications:

- 5
- 6       a) A Filipino citizen or a foreign citizen whose state/country has reciprocity  
7       agreement with the Philippines in the practice of speech language  
8       pathology;
- 9
- 10       b) Good moral character;
- 11
- 12       d) Has not been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; and
- 13
- 14       e) A graduate of a Bachelor's degree in speech language pathology from a  
15       duly recognized school, college or university in the Philippines or abroad and  
16       recognized/accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).
- 17
- 18

19       **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** - The subjects in the licensure examination  
20 for Speech Language Pathologists shall cover the following:

- 21
- 22       a) Anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism
- 23       b) Neurological bases of speech and hearing disorders
- 24       c) Articulation and phonological disorders
- 25       d) Hearing impairment and aural habilitation
- 26       e) Language disorders
- 27       f) Fluency disorders
- 28       g) Voice disorders
- 29       i) Dysphagia
- 30       j) Medical and neurological disorders that may cause communication and  
31       swallowing disorders
- 32       k) Normal development and function of speech, language, hearing and  
33       swallowing
- 34       l) Principles of assessment and intervention for speech, language, hearing  
35       and/or swallowing conditions
- 36       m) Research, Professional Ethics and Community Development

1 The Board may recluster, rearrange, modify, add or exclude any subject or  
2 change the percentage or weight given to said subjects, as the need arises so as to  
3 conform to technological changes.  
4  
5

6 **SEC. 15. *Registration Without Examination as Speech Language***  
7 ***Pathologist.*** – A person who possesses the pertinent qualifications required for  
8 admission in the examination for registration as a speech language pathologist  
9 pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be registered without examination,  
10 *Provided, That* the **APPLICANT FILES WITH THE Board**, within six (6) months  
11 after the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, an application for  
12 registration and issuance of a certificate of registration/professional license and  
13 professional identification card by submitting credentials showing that the applicant  
14 before the effectivity of this Act is a bachelor's degree holder of speech language  
15 pathology from a college or university accredited by the CHED. *Provided, further,*  
16 that the applicant is a member of the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization  
17 of speech language pathologists.  
18  
19

20 **SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Examination.*** - To be qualified as having passed the  
21 licensure examination for speech language pathologists, a candidate must have  
22 obtained a weighted general average of seventy-five (75%), with no grade lower than  
23 fifty (50%) in any given subject. A candidate who obtained grade/s below fifty  
24 percent (50%) must take the examination in the subject or subjects where he/she  
25 obtained a grade below fifty percent (50%) within two (2) years from the date of  
26 his/her last examination. The topic or subjects retaken must have each a rating of no  
27 less than seventy-five percent (75%) in order to qualify as having passed the  
28 examination.  
29  
30

31 **SEC. 17. *Report Ratings.*** - The Board shall submit to the Commission the  
32 ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination  
33 unless extended for just cause.  
34  
35

36 **SEC. 18. *Oath of Speech Language Pathologist.*** - All successful examinees  
37 qualified for registration and all qualified applicants for registration without  
38 examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the

1 Board or any authorized officer of the Commission to administer oaths, prior to  
2 entering into the practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines.  
3  
4

5 **SEC. 19. Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Professional License and**  
6 **Professional Identification Card.** - A certificate of registration/professional license  
7 and professional identification card shall be issued to all successful examinees and  
8 registrants either with or without examination upon compliance with all the legal  
9 requirements including payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The  
10 certificate of registration/professional license shall bear the signature of the  
11 Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and members of the Board,  
12 indicating that the person named therein is entitled to the practice of the profession  
13 with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. The said certificate shall remain in full  
14 force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or revoked in accordance with this Act.  
15

16 A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of  
17 issuance, expiry date, duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission, shall  
18 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed fee.  
19  
20

21 **SEC. 20. Indication of Certificate of Registration/Professional Tax Receipt.** -  
22 The speech language pathologist shall be required to indicate his/her certificate of  
23 registration/professional license number and date of issuance, including the  
24 professional tax receipt number on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in  
25 connection with the practice of his/her profession.  
26

27 **SEC. 21. Refusal to Register.** - The Board shall refuse to register and shall not  
28 issue a certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification  
29 card to any person convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction or a criminal offense  
30 involving moral turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or to any  
31 person of unsound mind. In the event of refusal to issue the certificate for any reason,  
32 the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth the reason for such  
33 action, which statement shall be incorporated in the record of the  
34 Board.  
35  
36

37 **SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of**  
38 **Registration/Professional License and Professional Identification Card and**  
39 **Cancellation of Special Permit.** - The Board may, after giving proper notice of

1 hearing to the party concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate of  
2 registration/professional license or suspend him/her from the practice of his/her  
3 profession or cancel his/her permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in  
4 Section 21 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice,  
5 violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of  
6 Ethics and the Standards for speech language pathologists.

7  
8  
9 **SEC. 23. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of**  
10 **Registration/Professional License.** - A person may apply to the Board for  
11 reinstatement of a certificate of registration/professional license at any time after two  
12 (2) years from the date of revocation of said certificate. The application shall be in  
13 writing and shall conform with the requirements as provided by the Board. No  
14 certificate/license shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good cause  
15 exists to warrant such reinstatement.

16  
17  
18 **SEC. 24. Roster of Speech Language Pathologist.** - The Board shall prepare,  
19 update and maintain a roster of speech language pathologist in coordination with the  
20 integrated and accredited professional organization, which shall contain the name of  
21 each registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the Board may  
22 deem pertinent. The roster shall be open to the public, copies of which shall be mailed  
23 to each person listed therein.

24  
25  
26 **SEC. 25. Issuance of Special/Temporary Permit.** - Special/Temporary permit  
27 may be issued by the Board subject to the approval by the Commission and payment  
28 of the fees the latter has prescribed and charged thereof to the following persons:

29  
30 a) a foreign speech language pathologist called for consultation for a specific  
31 purpose which, in the judgment of the Board, is essential for the growth of the  
32 profession: Provided, however, that his/her activities shall be limited only to  
33 the particular work, for which he/she is being engaged; Provided, further, that  
34 he/she is qualified to practice his/her profession in his/her state or country.  
35 Provided, finally, that there is no Filipino speech language pathologist  
36 qualified for such consultation or specific purpose;

37  
38 b) a foreign speech language pathologist who is an internationally recognized  
39 expert or specialist in any branch of speech language pathology and his/her

1 service is essential for the advancement of speech language pathology in the  
2 Philippines; and  
3

4 c) a foreign speech language pathologist to be engaged as professor, lecturer,  
5 or critic in fields essential to speech language pathology education in the  
6 Philippines is confined to teaching only.  
7

8 The permit shall, among other things, include these limitations and conditions:  
9 the same shall be valid for a period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal;  
10 the branch or specialty of speech language pathology which permit holder can  
11 practice in; and the specific place of practice such as clinic, hospital, center,  
12 school/college/university offering the course of speech language pathology. The  
13 Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and  
14 regulations for the implementation of this particular section.  
15  
16

#### 17 ARTICLE IV 18 PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY 19 20

21 **SEC. 26. *Scope of the Practice of Speech Language Pathology.*** - The Scope  
22 of the Practice of Speech Language Pathology shall embrace, but shall not be limited  
23 to the performance, in collaboration with other professionals, families and the  
24 community of any of the following:  
25

26 a) Screen, identify, assess, diagnose, manage and prevent disorders of speech  
27 such as, but not limited to articulation, fluency, voice, hearing and language;  
28

29 b) Screen, identify, assess, diagnose, manage and prevent disorders of oral-  
30 pharyngeal functions such as, but not limited to dysphagia and related  
31 disorders;  
32

33 c) Screen, identify, assess, diagnose and manage cognitive communication  
34 systems and provide training in their use;  
35

36 d) Assess, select and develop augmentative and alternative communication  
37 systems and provide training in their use;  
38

1 e) Screen hearing acuity for the purpose of speech language evaluation and  
2 aural rehabilitation;

3  
4 f) Plan, teach and carry out home programs and training for patients and their  
5 families;

6  
7 g) Plan, conduct and evaluate teaching-learning activities for students of  
8 speech language pathology and other related courses; for other health  
9 professionals, patients and their families;

10  
11 h) Plan, conduct and evaluate researches in pursuit of new knowledge for the  
12 growth of speech language pathology in the Philippines;

13  
14 i) Provide consultancy to government and non-government organization  
15 regarding the field of speech language pathology;

16  
17 j) Perform administrative duties in speech language pathology clinics/units in  
18 hospitals, schools and other rehabilitation centers; and

19  
20 k) Teaching, lecturing and reviewing subjects given in the licensure  
21 examination.

22  
23  
24 **SEC. 27. Prohibition on the Practice of Speech Language Pathology.** - No  
25 person shall practice or offer to practice speech language pathology in the Philippines  
26 or offer himself/herself as speech language pathologist, or use the title, word, letter  
27 figure, or a sign tending to convey the impression that he/she is a speech language  
28 pathologist, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that he/she is qualified  
29 to perform the work of a speech language pathologist unless he/she has satisfactorily  
30 passed the licensure examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in  
31 this Act, and is a holder of a valid certificate of registration/professional license and  
32 professional identification card or a valid temporary/special permit duly issued to  
33 him/her by the Board and the Commission.

34  
35  
36 **SEC. 28. Prohibited Acts.** - No person shall:

37  
38 a) Engage in the practice of speech language pathology by representing  
39 himself/herself as a speech language pathologist without a valid certificate of

1 registration/professional license or a valid temporary/special permit granted by  
2 the Board pursuant to this Act;

3  
4 b) Practice his/her profession during the period of his/her suspension from the  
5 practice thereof;

6  
7 c) Allow an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the profession by  
8 using his/her certificate of registration/professional license or  
9 temporary/special permit; and

10  
11 d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration/professional license or  
12 temporary/special permit of another.

13  
14  
15 **SEC. 29. Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Speech**  
16 **Language Pathologist.** - The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics  
17 and Code of Technical Standards for speech language pathologist prescribed and  
18 issued by the Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of speech  
19 language pathologists.

20  
21 **SEC. 30. Continuing Professional Development (CPD).** - All speech  
22 language pathologists shall abide by the requirements, rules, and regulation on  
23 continuing professional education to be promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board,  
24 subject to the approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO for speech  
25 language pathology and the representative of duly accredited education institutions.  
26 For this purpose, the Board may create a CPD Council to implement the CPD  
27 program subject to the guidelines as may be issued by the Commission.

28  
29  
30 **SEC. 31. Integration of Speech Language Pathologist.** - The speech  
31 language pathology profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional  
32 organization of speech language pathologists which shall be duly registered with the  
33 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the  
34 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only Accredited and  
35 Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered speech language  
36 pathologists. All speech language pathologists whose names appear in the Registry  
37 Book of Speech Language Pathologists shall *ipso facto* or automatically become  
38 members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto  
39 upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

1 Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)  
2 shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of speech language  
3 pathologists.  
4  
5

6 **SEC. 32. *Foreign Reciprocity.*** - No foreign speech language pathologist shall  
7 be given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional  
8 identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the  
9 country of which the foreign speech language pathologist is a subject or citizen  
10 specifically permits Filipino speech language pathologists to practice within its  
11 territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.  
12  
13

14 **ARTICLE V**  
15 **FINAL PROVISIONS**  
16  
17

18 **SEC. 33. *Funding Provision.*** - The Chairman of the Professional Regulation  
19 Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the  
20 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual  
21 General Appropriations Acts and thereafter.  
22  
23

24 **SEC. 34. *Penal Provision.*** - Any person who shall violate any of the  
25 provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated  
26 by the Board subject to the approval of the Commission shall upon conviction, be  
27 punished by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) nor more  
28 than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than two (2)  
29 years nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.  
30  
31

32 **SEC. 35. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - To implement the  
33 provisions of this Act, the Board, shall, subject to the approval of the Commission,  
34 promulgate the rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics for speech language  
35 pathologists within sixty (60) days after the constitution of the first Board.

1           **SEC. 36. *Separability Clause.*** - If any section or provision of this Act shall be  
2 declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other section or  
3 provision of this Act.

4  
5           **SEC. 37. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or parts  
6 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
7 modified accordingly.

8  
9  
10           **SEC. 38. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
11 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) major newspaper of  
12 national circulation whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*