



SENATE

S. No. 462

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS TRILLANES IV AND HONTIVEROS

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

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
4 the “Speech Language Pathology Act of 2017”.

5 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes
6 the important role of speech language pathologists in
7 nation building and promotes the sustained development of

1 a reservoir of speech language pathologists whose
2 competence have been determined by honest and credible
3 licensure examinations whose standards of professional
4 practice and service are world-class and internationally-
5 recognized, globally competitive through preventive
6 regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster
7 their continuing, professional growth.

8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

9 a) *Speech Language Pathology* shall mean an allied
10 health profession devoted to the evaluation, diagnosis,
11 management and prevention of human communication
12 disorder.

13 b) *Speech Language Pathologist* shall mean a person
14 who is registered and licensed to practice speech language
15 pathology and who holds a valid certificate of
16 registration/professional license and professional
17 identification card issued by the Professional Regulation
18 Commission under the provisions of this Act.

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

6 d) *Swelling Disorders* as addressed by speech
7 language pathologist shall include difficulties in
8 management of a solid or liquid bolus in the oral,
9 pharyngeal, and/or laryngeal stages of feeding.

10 e) *Evaluation* shall mean the global appraisal of the
11 significance and implications of a diagnostic assessment
12 that shall include formal and informal assessment.

13 f) *Diagnosis* shall mean the act of identifying a
14 human communication or swallowing abnormality or
15 disorder by analyzing the symptoms presented. It may also
16 include a study of the origin and development of the
17 symptoms.

18 g) *Language* is any socially and culturally accepted,
19 structured, symbolic system for interpersonal

1 communication composed of sounds, letters, manual sign or
2 other symbols arranged in ordered sequences or strings
3 that express thoughts, intentions, experiences and feelings
4 comprised of orthographic, phonological, syntactical,
5 semantic and pragmatic components.

6 h) *Speech* shall mean the medium of oral
7 communication that employs a linguistic code (language);
8 through this medium, one can express thoughts and
9 feelings and understand those of others who employ the
10 same code.

11 ARTICLE II

12 THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF SPEECH

13 PATHOLOGY

14 SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* —

15 Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act,
16 there shall be created the Professional Regulatory Board of
17 Speech Language Pathology, hereinafter referred to as the
18 Board under the administrative control and supervision of
19 the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter

referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a chairperson and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the three (3) recommendees for each vacant position chosen from the five (5) nominees of the integrated and accredited national organization of speech language pathologist.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* –

To be the chairperson or a member of the Board, one must at the time of higher appointment be:

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

b) A duly registered and licensed allied health professional holding a valid certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card, in active practice for the past five (5) years and a member in good standing of the accredited integrated national organization of speech language

1 pathologists prior to his/her appointment, except if
2 appointed the first chairperson/member;

3 c) Of good moral character and must not have been
4 convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude; and

5 d) Must not have pecuniary interest, directly or
6 indirectly, in any school, academy, college, university or
7 institution conferring an academic degree necessary for
8 administration to the practice of speech language
9 pathology or where review classes in preparation for the
10 licensure examination are being offered or conducted, nor
11 shall he/she be a member of the faculty or of the
12 administration thereof at the time of his/her appointment
13 to the Board.

14 SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The
15 Board shall have the authority to:

16 a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and
17 regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this
18 Act;

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

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

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;

1 h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and Code
2 of Technical Standards for the practice of speech language
3 pathology;

4 i) Standards for the practice of speech language
5 pathology; Issue, reinstate, suspend, revoke certificate of
6 registration and/or professional license or cancel special
7 permits for the practice of speech language pathology;

8 j) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the
9 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program for
10 speech language pathologist;

11 k) In consultation with the duly accredited
12 organization of speech language pathologist and the duly
13 recognized association of schools conferring a Bachelor's or
14 other entry level degree in Speech Language Pathology,
15 prescribe the area of competence to be included in the
16 computerized licensure examination and their relative
17 weights, determined the syllabi of the subjects, construct
18 the test questions in licensure examination, score and rate
19 examination papers;

1 l) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its
2 implementing rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics
3 for speech language pathologists, and for this purpose, to
4 issue *subpoena duces tecum* and/or *ad testificandum* to
5 secure the appearance of the witnesses and the production
6 of documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That the
7 decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the
8 Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15)
9 days from receipt of the judgment or decision;

10 m) Adopt a program for the full computerization of
11 the licensure examination;

12 n) Grant registration without examination subject
13 to the approval by the Commission;

14 o) Issue and/or cancel special permits to persons
15 admitted to the practice of speech language pathology for
16 a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition
17 for advanced studies, researches and accomplishments
18 that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and

1 p) Perform such other powers and functions as it
2 may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

3 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued
4 or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review
5 and approval of the Commission.

6 SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* — The chairperson and
7 members of the Board shall hold office for three (3) years
8 after appointment or until their successors shall have been
9 appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of
10 the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this
11 Act shall hold office for the following terms: chairperson for
12 three (3) years, one (1) member for two (2) years, and the
13 other member for one (1) year: *Provided, further*, That the
14 Chairperson or any member may be re-appointed for
15 another term of three (3) years but in no case shall he/she
16 serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Vacancy in
17 the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Each
18 member of the Board shall automatically be registered as
19 speech language pathologists and issued certificate of

1 registration/professional license and professional
2 identification card and shall take the proper oath of office
3 prior to assumption.

4 SEC. 8. *Compensation of the Members of the*
5 *Professional Regulatory Boards.* – The chairperson and
6 members of the Board shall receive compensation and
7 allowances comparable to that being received by the
8 chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards
9 under the Commission as provided for in the annual
10 General Appropriations Act.

11 SEC. 9. *Suspension and/or Removal of Board*
12 *Members.* – Any member of the Board may be suspended or
13 removed from office for gross neglect of duty,
14 incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality,
15 unethical or dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes
16 involving moral turpitude, and manipulation or rigging of
17 the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and
18 confidential information in the examination questions prior

1 to the conduct of the said examination or tampering of
2 grades.

3 The administrative proceedings shall be heard by the
4 Commission, whose recommendation shall be submitted to
5 the Office of the President. During the investigation, the
6 respondent shall be placed under preventive suspension by
7 the Commission and another designated to fill the
8 temporary vacancy in the Board.

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

16 The Commission shall designate the secretary of the
17 Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support
18 services to implement the provision of this Act.

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

ARTICLE III

LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

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

SEC. 13. *Qualification for Examination.* – In order to be allowed to take part in the licensure examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing of higher application.

1 establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she has
2 met the following qualifications:

3 a) A Filipino citizen or a foreign citizen whose
4 state/country has reciprocity agreement with the
5 Philippines in the practice of speech language pathology;

6 b) Good moral character;

7 c) Has not been convicted of a crime involving moral
8 turpitude; and

9 d) A graduate of a Bachelor's degree in speech
10 language pathology from a duly recognized school, college
11 or university in the Philippines or abroad and
12 recognized/accredited by the CHED.

13 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* — The subjects in the
14 licensure examination for Speech Language Pathologists
15 shall cover the following:

16 a) Anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing
17 mechanism;

- 1 b) Neurological bases of speech and hearing
- 2 disorders;
- 3 c) Articulation and phonological disorders;
- 4 d) Hearing impairment and aural habilitation;
- 5 e) Language and cognitive communication disorders;
- 6 f) Fluency disorders;
- 7 g) Voice disorders;
- 8 h) Cleft lip and palate and craniofacial conditions;
- 9 i) Dysphagia;
- 10 j) Medical and neurological disorders that may cause
- 11 communication and swallowing disorders;
- 12 k) Normal development and function of speech,
- 13 language, hearing and swallowing;
- 14 l) Principles of assessment and intervention for
- 15 speech, language, hearing and/or swallowing conditions;
- 16 and

1 m) Research, Professional Ethics and Community
2 Development.

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

7 SEC. 15. *Registration Without Examination as Speech*
8 *Language Pathologist.* – A person who possesses the
9 pertinent qualifications required for admission in the
10 examination for registration as a speech language
11 pathologist pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be
12 registered without examination: *Provided,* That the
13 applicant files with the Board, within six (6) months after
14 the effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations,
15 an application for registration and issuance of a certificate
16 of registration/professional license and professional
17 identification card by submitting credentials showing that
18 the applicant before the effectivity of this Act is a
19 bachelor's degree holder of speech language pathology from

1 a college or university accredited by the CHED: *Provided*,
2 *further*, That the applicant is a member of the Accredited
3 Integrated Professional Organization of speech language
4 pathologists.

5 SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Examination.* — To be
6 qualified as having passed the licensure examination for
7 speech language pathologists, a candidate must have
8 obtained a weighted general average of seventy-five
9 percent (75%), with no grade lower than fifty percent (50%)
10 in any given subject. A candidate who obtained grade/s
11 below fifty percent (50%) must take the examination in the
12 subject or subjects where he/she obtained a grade below
13 fifty percent (50%) within two (2) years from the date of
14 his/her last examination. The topic or subjects retaken
15 must have each a rating of no less than seventy-five
16 percent (75%) in order to qualify as having passed the
17 examination.

18 SEC. 17. *Report Ratings.* — The Board shall submit to
19 the Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate

1 within ten (10) calendar days after the examination unless
2 extended for just cause.

3 SEC. 18. *Oath of Speech Language Pathologist.* – All
4 successful examinees qualified for registration and all
5 qualified applicants for registration without examination
6 shall be required to take an oath of profession before any
7 member of the Board or any authorized officer of the
8 Commission to administer oaths, prior to entering into the
9 practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines.

10 SEC. 19. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Professional*
11 *License and Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of
12 registration/professional license and professional
13 identification card shall be issued to all successful
14 examinees and registrants either with or without
15 examination upon compliance with all the legal
16 requirements including payment of fees prescribed by the
17 Commission. The certificate of registration/professional
18 license shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the
19 Commission and the chairperson and members of the

1 Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled
2 to the practice of the profession with all the privileges
3 appurtenant thereto. The said certificate shall remain in
4 full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or revoked
5 in accordance with this Act.

6 A professional identification card bearing the
7 registration number, date of issuance, expiry date, duly
8 signed by the chairperson of the Commission, shall
9 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the
10 prescribed fee.

11 *SEC. 20. Indication of Certificate of Registration/Professional*
12 *Tax Receipt.* – The speech language pathologist shall be
13 required to indicate his/her certificate of
14 registration/professional license number and date of
15 issuance, including the professional tax receipt number on
16 the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in connection
17 with the practice of his/her profession.

18 *SEC. 21. Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall refuse
19 to register and shall not issue a certificate of

1 registration/professional license and professional
2 identification card to any person convicted by a court of
3 competent jurisdiction or a criminal offense involving
4 moral turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable
5 conduct or to any person of unsound mind. In the event of
6 refusal to issue the certificate for any reason, the Board
7 shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth
8 the reason for such action, which statement shall be
9 incorporated in the record of the Board.

10 *SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of*
11 *Registration/Professional License and Professional*
12 *Identification Card and Cancellation of Special Permit. —*

13 The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the
14 party concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate of
15 registration/professional license or suspend him/her from
16 the practice of his/her profession or cancel his/her permit
17 for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 21 of
18 this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct,
19 malpractice, violation of any of the provisions of this Act,

1 pertinent. The roster shall be open to the public, copies of
2 which shall be mailed to each person listed therein.

3 SEC. 25. *Issuance of Special/Temporary Permit.* –
4 Special/Temporary permit may be issued by the Board
5 subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of
6 the fees the latter has prescribed and charged thereof to
7 the following persons:

8 a) A foreign speech language pathologist called for
9 consultation for a specific purpose which, in the judgment
10 of the Board, is essential for the growth of the profession:
11 *Provided, however,* That his/her activities shall be limited
12 only to the particular work, for which he/she is being
13 engaged: *Provided, further,* That he/she is qualified to
14 practice his/her profession in his/her state or country:
15 *Provided, finally,* That there is no Filipino speech language
16 pathologist qualified for such consultation or specific
17 purpose;

18 b) A foreign speech language pathologist who is an
19 internationally recognized expert or specialist in any

1 its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics and the
2 Standards for speech language pathologists.

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

13 SEC. 24. *Roster of Speech Language Pathologist.* –
14 The Board shall prepare, update and maintain a roster of
15 speech language pathologist in coordination with the
16 integrated and accredited professional organization, which
17 shall contain the name of each registration and issuance of
18 certificates, and other data which the Board may deem

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

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

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

18 ARTICLE IV

19 PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

1 SEC. 26. *Scope of the Practice of Speech Language*

2 *Pathology.* – The Scope of the Practice of Speech Language

3 Pathology shall embrace, but shall not be limited to the
4 performance, in collaboration with other professionals,
5 families and the community of any of the following:

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

9 b) Screen, identify, assess, diagnose, manage and
10 prevent disorders of oral-pharyngeal functions such as, but
11 not limited to, dysphagia and related disorders;

12 c) Screen, identify, assess, diagnose and manage
13 cognitive communication systems and provide training in
14 their use;

15 d) Assess, select and develop augmentative and
16 alternative communication systems and provide training in
17 their use;

1 SEC. 27. *Prohibition on the Practice of Speech*

2 *Language Pathology.* – No person shall practice or offer to
3 practice speech language pathology in the Philippines or
4 offer himself/herself as speech language pathologist, or use
5 the title, word, letter figure, or a sign tending to convey the
6 impression that he/she is a speech language pathologist, or
7 advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that
8 he/she is qualified to perform the work of a speech
9 language pathologist unless he/she has satisfactorily
10 passed the licensure examination given by the Board,
11 except as otherwise provided in this Act, and is a holder of
12 a valid certificate of registration/professional license and
13 professional identification card or a valid
14 special/temporary permit duly issued to him/her by the
15 Board and the Commission.

16 SEC. 28. *Prohibited Acts.* – No person shall:

17 a) Engage in the practice of speech language
18 pathology by representing himself/herself as a speech
19 language pathologist without a valid certificate of

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

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

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

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

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

1 SEC. 30. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD).*

2 – All speech language pathologists shall abide by the
3 requirements, rules, and regulation on continuing
4 professional education to be promulgated by the PRC
5 Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the
6 Commission, in coordination with the AIPO for speech
7 language pathology and the representative of duly
8 accredited education institutions. For this purpose, the
9 Board may create a CPD Council to implement the CPD
10 program subject to the guidelines as may be issued by the
11 Commission.

12 SEC. 31. *Integration of Speech Language*

13 *Pathologist.* – The speech language pathology profession
14 shall be integrated into one (1) national professional
15 organization of speech language pathologists which shall
16 be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange
17 Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the
18 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one
19 and only Accredited and Integrated Professional
20 Organization (AIPO) of registered speech language

1 pathologists. All speech language pathologists whose
2 names appear in the Registry Book of Speech Language
3 Pathologists shall *ipso facto* or automatically become
4 members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and
5 privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO
6 membership fees and dues.

7 Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to
8 membership in other organizations of speech language
9 pathologists.

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

ARTICLE V

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 33. *Funding Provision.* – The Chairman of the Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Acts and thereafter.

SEC. 34. *Penal Provision.* – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board subject to the approval of the Commission shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) nor more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than two (2) years nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 35. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To implement the provisions of this Act, the Board, shall,

1 subject to the approval of the Commission, promulgate the
2 rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics for speech
3 language pathologists within sixty (60) days after the
4 constitution of the first Board.

5 SEC. 36. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or
6 provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or
7 unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other
8 section or provision of this Act.

9 SEC. 37. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders,
10 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the
11 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
12 accordingly.

13 SEC. 38. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take
14 effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the
15 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) major newspaper of national
16 circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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