


SEVENTEETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



16 JUL 26 19:56

SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 900

BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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

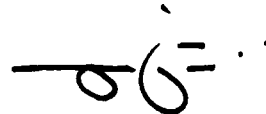
EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

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

This proposed measure seeks to make the national telecommunication system available to the hearing-impaired and speech-impaired.

The early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

SEVENTEETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

16 JUL 26 1956

SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 900

BY:

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the
2 "*Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act*".
3
4

5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared as a policy of the State
6 to provide handicapped persons protection and assistance to hasten their integration
7 into the mainstream of society.
8
9

10 **SEC. 3. Definition.** - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall
11 have the corresponding definitions:
12

13 (1) "TDD" or Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf is a machine which
14 employs graphic communications in the transmission of coded signals
15 through the nationwide telecommunications system;
16

17 (2) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of Transportation and
18 Communications.
19

20
21 **SEC. 4. National Telecommunications Systems Requirements.** -
22

23 (a) Accessibility of Telecommunication System - The Department of
24 Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall issue the necessary
25 rules and regulations to assure that the national telecommunications

1 system is fully accessible to hearing-impaired and speech-impaired
2 individuals.

3
4 (b) Specific Requirement - in carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary
5 shall -

6
7 (1) provide for establishment of a relay system for users of TDD's:

8
9 (2) within ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act, expand
10 such relay system by employing at least one additional operator;

11
12 (3) within one hundred eighty (180) days after such date of
13 enactment:

14
15 (a) conduct, as part of the rule-making proceeding required
16 by subsection (a), analysis of modifications to the
17 National Telecommunication System that the Secretary,
18 in his discretion, determines to be necessary to achieve
19 the objectives of subsection (a); and,

20 (b) submit report on the results of such analysis to each
21 House of Congress;

22
23 (4) within one hundred eighty (180) days after completion of such
24 analysis, prescribe the regulations required by subsection (a);

25
26 (5) assemble, publish and maintain a directory of TDD and other
27 devices used by national agencies to comply with such
28 regulations, and publish in national agency directories, access
29 numbers of TDDs and such other devices; and,

30
31 (6) adopt the design of a standard logo to signify the presence of a
32 TDD or other device used to comply with such regulations.

33
34
35 **SEC. 5. Additional Requirements. -**

36
37 (a) Support for Research - The Secretary shall seek to promote
38 research by government agencies and private entities to reduce the
39 cost and improve the capabilities of telecommunications devices
40 and systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and
41 speech-impaired individuals.

42
43 (b) Planning to Assimilate Technological Development - The
44 Secretary, in planning future alterations to and modifications of the
45 National Telecommunications System, shall take into account
46 results of the analysis required by Section 4 (b) (3) and any

1 technological improvements in telecommunications devices and
2 systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and speech-
3 impaired individuals.
4

5
6 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
7 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
8 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
9 modified, or amended accordingly.
10

11 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
12 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
13 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
14 modified or amended accordingly
15

16
17 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
19

20
21 *Approved,*
22