

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



'22 OCT 12 P1:40

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 1379**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

---

**AN ACT**  
**TO PROCLAIM 3<sup>RD</sup> WEEK OF JUNE AS DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Deaf-blindness is a unique disability that incorporates the sensory loss of both sight and hearing. Persons with this disability experience extreme isolation and the inability to access the services and information which most of us take for granted. As of March 2022, there are 54,533 deaf and visually impaired person with issued ID recorded in the Philippines.<sup>1</sup> There are more or less 1.44 million persons or 1.57% of the total population with this disability<sup>2</sup>.

To encourage persons with disability to engage in active public participation, it is appropriate to devote attention to deaf-blind persons. It is necessary to recognize that increased public awareness of this disability is crucial to increase opportunities for those who live with it and educate the public that persons with this disability are also in the position to provide great contribution to the country.

In this regard, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**MARK A. VILLAR**

---

<sup>1</sup> Philippine Registry for Persons with Disability, Department of Health.

<sup>2</sup> 2010 Census of Population and Housing

22 OCT 12 P1:40

**SENATE**  
S. No. 1379

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



---

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

---

**AN ACT**  
**TO PROCLAIM THE 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OF JUNE AS DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK**

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

1 Section 1. *Title* — This Act shall be known and cited as the “Deaf-Blind  
2 Awareness Week”.

3 Sec. 2. Proclaiming the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June as “Deaf-Blind Awareness Month” in  
4 the Philippines.

5 Sec. 3. The Department of Health shall urge all citizens to recognize “Deaf-  
6 Blind Awareness Week” and shall hold programs and activities for the observance of  
7 the event. The Department shall likewise provide encouragement and assistance to  
8 those organizations that offer educational, advocacy and support services for the  
9 deaf-blind persons.

10 Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. — The Department of Health  
11 shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective  
12 implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

13 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision or part thereof is held invalid  
14 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected  
15 shall remain valid and existing.

16 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause*. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
17 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary

18 to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or  
19 amended accordingly.

20           *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general  
22 circulation.

*Approved,*