

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

19 JUL 19 10:32

SENATE
S. No. 1555

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the importance of the disabled sector. For example, it provides sectoral representation for the disabled in the House of Representatives. The State also established the National Commission for Disabled Persons to insure that the rights of the handicapped are protected, and 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 the communication facilities for hearing impaired and speech-impaired.

This bill seeks to make the national telecommunication system accessible to the hearing impaired and speech-impaired.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was re-filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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10 JUL 19 23:32

SENATE
S. No. **1555**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING HEARING-IMPAIRED AND SPEECH-IMPAIRED PERSONS ACCESS TO
3 TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "Telecommunication
5 Accessibility Enhancement Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the state to provide handicapped
7 persons protection and assistance to hasten their integration into the mainstream of society.

8 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purposes of this Act, the term:

9 (A) "TDD" or Telecommunication Devices for Deaf means a machine which employs
10 graphic communications in the transmission of coded signals through the nationwide
11 telecommunication system.

12 (B) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation and Communication.

13 SECTION 4. *National Telecommunications System Requirements.* -

14 (A) *Accessibility of Telecommunications System.* - The Department of Transportation and

1 Communications and the effective government agencies shall issue the necessary rules and
2 regulation to assure that the National telecommunication system is fully accessible to hearing
3 impaired and speech-impaired individuals.

4 (B) *Specific Requirements.* - In carrying out paragraph (A), the Secretary shall-

5 (1) Provide for establishment of a relay for users of TDDs.

6 (2) Within ninety (90) days after the date of enactment of this Act, expand such
7 relay system by employing at least one additional operator.

8 (3) Within one hundred eighty (180) days after such date of enactment -

9 (a) Conduct, as part of the rule-making proceeding required by paragraph
10 (A), an analysis of modifications to the National telecommunication system that
11 the secretary, in his discretions, determines to be necessary to achieve the
12 objectives of paragraph (A); and

13 (b) Submit report on the result of such analysis to each House of the
14 Congress;

15 (4) Within one hundred eighty (180) days after completion of such analysis
16 prescribe the regulations required by paragraph (A);

17 (5) Assemble, publish and maintain a directory of TDDs and other devices used
18 by National agencies to comply with such regulation, and publish in National agency
19 directories, access numbers of TDDs and such other devices; and

20 (6) Adopt the design of a standard logo to signify the presence of a TDD or other
21 device used by a national government agency to comply with such regulations.

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1 SECTION 5. *Additional Requirements.* -

2 (A) *Support for Research.* - The Secretary shall seek to promote research by government
3 agencies and private entities to reduce the cost and improve the capabilities of
4 telecommunications devices and systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and
5 speech-impaired individuals.

6 (B) *Planning to Assimilate Technological Development.* - The Secretary, in planning
7 future alterations to and modifications of the National telecommunications system, shall take into
8 account result of the analysis required by Section 3(B)(3) and technological improvements in
9 telecommunications devices and systems that provide accessibility to hearing-impaired and
10 speech-impaired individuals.

11 SECTION 6. *Inquiry Regarding Inter-Region TDD Relay System.* - The Department of

12 Transportation and communication within nine (9) months after the date of enactment of this act,
13 complete inquiry regarding an interstate relay system for users of TDDs.

14 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If a provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid
16 and subsisting.

17 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
19 with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

1 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,