

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS)
First Regular Session)

Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 NOV 18 25:50

SENATE

RECEIVED

SENATE BILL NO. 1936

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

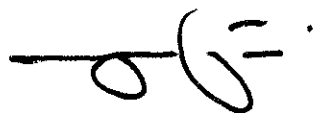
The State affirms and mandates the rehabilitation, self-development and integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) into this conventional society through the passage of Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, encouraging television stations to use subtitles or sign-language interpreters in their news programs. However, in reality, only a small number of the major news programs are regularly using subtitles or sign-language insets, while a couple of regional stations have been utilizing sign language insets with the help of non-government organizations.

According to the Philippine Deaf Resource Center, less than 5% of the reported 120,000 hearing-impaired are literate or have received any form of schooling. Therefore it is recommended that Filipino sign language must be preferred over captions or subtitles.

With millions of PWDs, there is a long-standing yet unnoticed call to use subtitles or sign language on TV. Filipinos who are diagnosed as hearing-impaired only are deprived of timely and relevant information that broadcast news provides.

Through this proposed bill, which seeks to amend Section 22 of RA 7277, "All free to air television stations are thus required to provide Filipino sign language insets whenever possible, closed captions or subtitles in at least two newscast programs a day and special programs covering events of national significance maybe used as an alternative. The free-to-air television stations may likewise opt to provide for Filipino sign language insets in other programs such as those pertaining to cultural affairs, livelihood and those catering to children. This way the broadcast media will be more accessible to those with hearing-impairment. This bill may also pave the way for more captioned or sign language interpreted programs in the future.¹

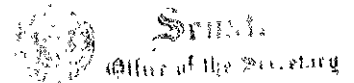
The immediate approval of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.



JOSEPH VICTOR G EJERCITO

¹ Media Relations Service, Public Relations and Information Bureau

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS)
First Regular Session)



'13 NOV 18 P5:50

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *js*

Senate Bill No. 1936

Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS FOR LOCAL NEWS PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)"

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

SECTION 1. Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 22. *Broadcast Media.* - **ALL FREE-TO-AIR** [T]Television stations [shall be encouraged] **ARE REQUIRED** to provide [a] **FILIPINO** sign[-]language inset**S, AND WHERE POSSIBLE, CLOSED CAPTIONS** or subtitles in at least [one (1)] **TWO (2)** newscast program**S** a day and special programs covering events of national significance.

"THE FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION STATIONS MAY LIKewise OPT TO PROVIDE FOR FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS IN OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE PERTAINING TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIVELIHOOD AND THOSE CATERING TO CHILDREN."

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,