



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

'15 SEP -1 P5 54

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: X

Senate Bill No. 2925

**Prepared by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance with Senators Estrada, Trillanes IV and Legarda as authors**

**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:*

**ARTICLE I  
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the **"Speech Language Pathology Act of 2015"**.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** The State recognizes the important role of speech language pathologists in nation building and promotes the sustained development of a reservoir of speech language pathologists whose competence have been determined by honest and credible licensure examinations whose standards of professional practice and service are world-class and internationally-recognized, globally competitive through preventive regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their continuing, professional growth.

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

a) The term "speech language pathology" shall mean an allied medical profession devoted to the evaluation, diagnosis, management and prevention of human communication disorder.

b) The term "speech language pathologist" shall mean a person who is registered and licensed to practice speech language pathology and who holds a valid certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card issued by the Professional Regulation Commission under the provisions of this Act.

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

1  
2 d) "Evaluation" shall mean the global appraisal of the significance and  
3 implications of a diagnostic assessment that shall include formal and informal  
4 assessment.

5  
6 (e) "Diagnosis" shall mean the act of identifying a human communication  
7 or swallowing abnormality or disorder by analyzing the symptoms presented. It  
8 may also include a study of the origin and development of the symptoms.

9  
10 (f) "Language" is any socially and culturally accepted, structured, symbolic  
11 system for interpersonal communication composed of sounds, letters, manual  
12 sign or other symbols arranged in ordered sequences or strings that express  
13 thoughts, intentions, experiences and feelings comprised of orthographic,  
14 phonological, syntactical, semantic and pragmatic components.

15  
16 (g) "Speech" shall mean the medium of oral communication that employs  
17 a linguistic code (language); through this medium, one can express thoughts and  
18 feelings and understand those of others who employ the same code.

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21 **ARTICLE II**  
22 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF SPEECH**  
23 **PATHOLOGY**  
24

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26 **SEC. 4. Creation and Composition of the Board.** Within ninety days  
27 after the effectivity of this Act, there shall be created the Professional Regulatory  
28 Board of Speech Language Pathology, hereinafter referred to as the Board under  
29 the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation  
30 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a  
31 Chairperson and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the  
32 Philippines from the three (3) recommendees for each vacant position chosen  
33 from the five nominees of the integrated and accredited national organization of  
34 speech language pathologist.

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37 **SEC. 5. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.** - To be the  
38 Chairperson or a member of the Board, one must at the time of higher  
39 appointment be:

40  
41 a) A natural born citizen of the Philippines and an actual resident thereof  
42 for at least five (5) years before his/her appointment;

43  
44 b) A duly registered and licensed speech language pathologist holding a  
45 valid certificate of registration/professional license and professional  
46 identification card, in active practice for the past five (5) years and a  
47 member in good standing of the accredited integrated national  
48 organization of speech language pathologists prior to his/her appointment,  
49 except if appointed the first Chairperson/member;

50  
51 c) Of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any  
52 offense involving moral turpitude; and

53  
54 d) Must not have pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school,  
55 academy, college, university or institution conferring an academic degree  
56 necessary for administration to the practice of speech language pathology  
57 or where review classes in preparation for the licensure examination are

1 being offered or conducted, nor shall he/she be a member of the faculty or  
2 of the administration thereof at the time of his/her appointment to the  
3 Board.  
4

5 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Board.** - The Board shall have the  
6 authority to:  
7

- 8 a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary  
9 for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- 10  
11 b) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- 12  
13 c) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of  
14 speech language pathology in the Philippines;
- 15  
16 d) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 17  
18 e) Maintain a roster of speech language pathologists indicating therein  
19 the basic information about the registered professionals;  
20
- 21 f) Study the conditions affecting the practice of speech language  
22 pathology in the Philippines and adopt measures for the  
23 enhancement of the professional ethical and technical standards  
24 therein;
- 25  
26 g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education  
27 (CHED), that all educational institutions offering speech language  
28 pathology education comply with the policies, standards and  
29 requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of  
30 curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- 31  
32 h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and Code of Technical  
33 Standards for the practice of speech language pathology;
- 34  
35 i) Standards for the practice of speech language pathology; Issue,  
36 reinstate, suspend, revoke certificate of registration and/or  
37 professional license or cancel special permits for the practice of  
38 speech language pathology;
- 39  
40 j) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing Professional  
41 Education (CPE) program for speech language pathologist;
- 42  
43 k) In consultation with the duly accredited organization of speech  
44 language pathologist and the duly recognized association of schools  
45 conferring a Bachelor's or other entry level degree in Speech  
46 Language Pathology, prescribe the area of competence to be  
47 included in the computerized licensure examination and their relative  
48 weights, determined the syllabi of the subjects, construct the test  
49 questions in licensure examination, score and rate examination  
50 papers;
- 51  
52 l) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules  
53 and regulations and the Code of Ethics for speech language  
54 pathologists, and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena duces tecum*  
55 and/or *ad testificandum* to secure the appearance of the witnesses  
56 and the production of documents in connection therewith: Provided,  
57 that the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the

1 Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from  
2 receipt of the judgment or decision;

- 3  
4 m) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure  
5 examination;
- 6  
7 n) Grant registration without examination subject to the approval by the  
8 Commission;
- 9  
10 o) Issue and/or cancel special permits to persons admitted to the  
11 practice of speech language pathology for a specific duration of time,  
12 and certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches and  
13 accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession;  
14 and,
- 15  
16 p) Perform such other powers and functions as it may deem necessary  
17 to carry out the objectives of this Act.

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19 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued or promulgated by  
20 the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission.  
21

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23 **SEC. 7. Term of Office.** - The Chairperson and members of the Board  
24 shall hold office for three (3) years after appointment or until their successors  
25 shall have been appointed and duly qualified; *Provided*, that members of the first  
26 Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the  
27 following terms: Chairperson for three (3) years, one member for two (2) years,  
28 and the other member for one (1) years: *Provided, further*, that the Chairperson  
29 or any member may be re-appointed for another term of three (3) years but in no  
30 case shall he/she serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Vacancy in the  
31 Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Each member of the Board shall  
32 automatically be registered as speech language pathologists and issued  
33 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card  
34 and shall take the proper oath of office prior to assumption.  
35

36  
37 **SEC. 8. Compensation of the Members of the Professional**  
38 **Regulatory Boards.** - The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive  
39 compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the  
40 Chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission  
41 as provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
42

43  
44 **SEC. 9. Suspension and/or Removal of Board Members.** - Any  
45 member of the Board may be suspended or removed from office for gross  
46 neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality,  
47 unethical or dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral  
48 turpitude, and manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination results,  
49 disclosure of secret and confidential information in the examination questions  
50 prior to the conduct of the said examination or tampering of grades.  
51

52 The administrative proceedings shall be heard by the Commission, whose  
53 recommendation shall be submitted to the Office of the President. During the  
54 investigation, the respondent shall be placed under preventive suspension by the  
55 Commission and another designated to fill the temporary vacancy in the Board.  
56  
57

1           **SEC. 10. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records,***  
2 ***Secretariat and Support Services.*** - The Board shall be under the  
3 administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including  
4 applications for examination, and administrative and other investigative cases  
5 conducted by the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission.  
6

7           The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall  
8 provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provision of  
9 this Act.  
10

11  
12           **SEC. 11. *Annual Report.*** - The Board shall submit an annual report to the  
13 Commission after the close of each calendar year, giving a detailed account of  
14 the proceedings of the Board during the year and recommending measures to be  
15 adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting  
16 the practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines.  
17

18  
19   **ARTICLE III**  
20   **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**  
21

22  
23           **SEC. 12. *Examination Required.*** - All applicants for registration for the  
24 practice of speech language pathology shall be required to undergo a licensure  
25 examination to be given by the Board in such places and dates as the  
26 Commission may designate subject to compliance with the requirements  
27 prescribed by the Commission.  
28

29  
30           **SEC. 13. *Qualification for Examination.*** - In order to be allowed to take  
31 part in the licensure examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing of higher  
32 application, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she has met the  
33 following qualifications:  
34

- 35           a) A Filipino citizen or a foreign citizen whose state/country has  
36           reciprocity agreement with the Philippines in the practice of speech  
37           language pathology;
- 38           b) Good moral character;
- 39           c) Good moral character;
- 40           d) Has not been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;
- 41           e) A graduate of a Bachelor's degree in speech language pathology from  
42           a duly recognized school, college or university in the Philippines or abroad  
43           and recognized/accredited by the Commission on Higher Education  
44           (CHED).  
45           f) A graduate of a Bachelor's degree in speech language pathology from  
46           a duly recognized school, college or university in the Philippines or abroad  
47           and recognized/accredited by the Commission on Higher Education  
48           (CHED).

49           **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** - The subjects in the licensure  
50 examination for Speech Language Pathologists shall cover the following:  
51

- 52           a) Anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism
- 53           b) Neurological bases of speech and hearing disorders
- 54           c) Articulation and phonological disorders
- 55           d) Hearing impairment and aural habilitation
- 56           e) Language disorders
- 57           f) Fluency disorders

- 1 g) Voice disorders
- 2 i) Dysphagia
- 3 j) Medical and neurological disorders that may cause communication and
- 4 swallowing disorders
- 5 k) Normal development and function of speech, language, hearing and
- 6 swallowing
- 7 l) Principles of assessment and intervention for speech, language, hearing
- 8 and/or swallowing conditions
- 9 m) Research, Professional Ethics and Community Development

10  
11 The Board may recluster, rearrange, modify, add or exclude any subject or  
12 change the percentage or weight given to said subjects, as the need arises so as  
13 to conform to technological changes.  
14

15  
16 **SEC. 15. Registration Without Examination as Speech Language**  
17 **Pathologist.** – A person who possesses the pertinent qualifications required for  
18 admission in the examination for registration as a speech language pathologist  
19 pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be registered without examination  
20 provided the **APPLICANT FILES WITH THE Board**, within six (6) months after  
21 the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, an application for  
22 registration and issuance of a certificate of registration/professional license and  
23 professional identification card by submitting credentials showing that the  
24 applicant before the effectivity of this Act is a bachelor's degree holder of speech  
25 language pathology from a college or university accredited by the CHED.  
26 Provided further, that the applicant is a member of the Accredited Integrated  
27 Professional Organization of speech language pathologists.  
28

29  
30 **SEC. 16. Ratings in the Examination.** - To be qualified as having passed  
31 the licensure examination for speech language pathologists, a candidate must  
32 have obtained a weighted general average of seventy-five (75%), with no grade  
33 lower than fifty (50%) in any given subject. A candidate who obtained grade/s  
34 below fifty percent (50%) must take the examination in the subject or subjects  
35 where he/she obtained a grade below fifty percent (50%) within two (2) years  
36 from the date of his/her last examination. The topic or subjects retaken must  
37 have each a rating of no less than seventy-five percent (75%) in order to qualify  
38 as having passed the examination.  
39

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41 **SEC. 17. Report Ratings.** - The Board shall submit to the Commission  
42 the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the  
43 examination unless extended for just cause.  
44

45  
46 **SEC. 18. Oath of Speech Language Pathologist.** - All successful  
47 examinees qualified for registration and all qualified applicants for registration  
48 without examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before any  
49 member of the Board or any authorized officer of the Commission to administer  
50 oaths, prior to entering into the practice of speech language pathology in the  
51 Philippines.  
52

53  
54 **SEC. 19. Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Professional License**  
55 **and Professional Identification Card.** - A certificate of registration/professional  
56 license and professional identification card shall be issued to all successful  
57 examinees and registrants either with or without examination upon compliance

1 with all the legal requirements including payment of fees prescribed by the  
2 Commission. The certificate of registration/professional license shall bear the  
3 signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and  
4 members of the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to the  
5 practice of the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. The said  
6 certificate shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or  
7 revoked in accordance with this Act.

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

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

19  
20 **SEC. 21. Refusal to Register.** - The Board shall refuse to register and  
21 shall not issue a certificate of registration/professional license and professional  
22 identification card to any person convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction or  
23 a criminal offense involving moral turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable  
24 conduct or to any person of unsound mind. In the event of refusal to issue the  
25 certificate for any reason, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement  
26 setting forth the reason for such action, which statement shall be incorporated in  
27 the record of the  
28 Board.

29  
30  
31 **SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of**  
32 **Registration/Professional License and Professional Identification Card and**  
33 **Cancellation of Special Permit.** - The Board may, after giving proper notice of  
34 hearing to the party concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate of  
35 registration/professional license or suspend him/her from the practice of his/her  
36 profession or cancel his/her permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in  
37 Section 21 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice,  
38 violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of  
39 Ethics and the Standards for speech language pathologists.

40  
41  
42 **SEC. 23. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate**  
43 **of Registration/Professional License.** - A person may apply to the Board for  
44 reinstatement of a certificate of registration/professional license at any time after  
45 two (2) years from the date of revocation of said certificate. The application shall  
46 be in writing and shall conform with the requirements as provided by the Board.  
47 No certificate/license shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good  
48 cause exists to warrant such reinstatement.

49  
50  
51 **SEC. 24. Roster of Speech Language Pathologist.** - The Board shall  
52 prepare, update and maintain a roster of speech language pathologist in  
53 coordination with the integrated and accredited professional organization, which  
54 shall contain the name of each registration and issuance of certificates, and other  
55 data which the Board may deem pertinent. The roster shall be open to the public,  
56 copies of which shall be mailed to each person listed therein.





- 1  
2 f) Plan, teach and carry out home programs and training for patients and  
3 their families;  
4  
5 g) Plan, conduct and evaluate teaching-learning activities for students of  
6 speech language pathology and other related courses; for other health  
7 professionals, patients and their families;  
8  
9 h) Plan, conduct and evaluate researches in pursuit of new knowledge for  
10 the growth of speech language pathology in the Philippines;  
11  
12 i) Provide consultancy to government and non-government organization  
13 regarding the field of speech language pathology; and  
14  
15 j) Perform administrative duties in speech language pathology clinics/units  
16 in hospitals, schools and other rehabilitation centers;  
17  
18 k) Teaching, lecturing, reviewing subjects given in the licensure  
19 examination.  
20  
21

22 **SEC. 27. Prohibition on the Practice of Speech Language Pathology.**

23 - No person shall practice or offer to practice speech language pathology in the  
24 Philippines or offer himself/herself as speech language pathologist, or use the  
25 title, word, letter figure, or a sign tending to convey the impression that he/she is  
26 a speech language pathologist, or advertise or indicate in any manner  
27 whatsoever that he/she is qualified to perform the work of a speech language  
28 pathologist unless he/she has satisfactorily passed the licensure examination  
29 given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this Act, and is a holder of a  
30 valid certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification  
31 card or a valid temporary/special permit duly issued to him/her by the Board and  
32 the Commission.  
33

34  
35 **SEC. 28. Prohibited Acts.** - No person shall:  
36

37 a) Engage in the practice of speech language pathology by representing  
38 himself/herself as a speech language pathologist without a valid certificate of  
39 registration/professional license or a valid temporary/special permit granted by  
40 the Board pursuant to this Act;  
41

42 b) Practice his/her profession during the period of his/her suspension from  
43 the practice thereof;  
44

45 c) Allow an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the profession by  
46 using his/her certificate of registration/professional license or temporary/special  
47 permit; and  
48

49 d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration/professional license or  
50 temporary/special permit of another.  
51

52  
53 **SEC. 29. Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Speech**  
54 **Language Pathologist** - The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of  
55 Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for speech language pathologist  
56 prescribed and issued by the accredited and integrated professional organization  
57 (AIPO) of speech language pathologists.



1           **SEC. 35. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - To implement the  
2 provisions of this Act, the Board, shall, subject to the approval of the  
3 Commission, promulgate the rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics for  
4 speech language pathologists within sixty (60) days after the constitution of the  
5 first Board.  
6

7  
8           **SEC. 36. *Separability Clause.*** - If any section or provision of this Act  
9 shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other  
10 section or provision of this Act.  
11

12  
13           **SEC. 37. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or  
14 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
15 repealed or modified accordingly.  
16

17  
18           **SEC. 38. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)  
19 days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) major newspaper  
20 of national circulation whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*