

SENATE

'18 JUL 26 P12:05

S. No. 1892

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY AND CREATING FOR
THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, UPGRADING AUDIOLOGIC
EDUCATION, INTEGRATING AUDIOLOGISTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

An audiologist is a healthcare professional who specializes in the identification and assessment, habilitation and rehabilitation of balance and hearing problems, as well as prevention of hearing loss. The role of audiologists in safeguarding and enhancing the health and general physical well-being of the citizenry is undeniably important.

However, despite this recognition, the government, particularly the health sector, has not given much emphasis on audiology as a profession and as a component of the primary health care system. This non-recognition, as well as the lack of formal training institutions, has discouraged citizens to venture into the field of audiology, or if they do so, they eventually seek employment outside the country.

In this regard, this bill seeks to professionalize the practice of audiology and to create a Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology. Furthermore, it seeks to promote and increase the competence of audiologists by institutionalizing preventive regulatory measures, programs and activities that will foster their continuing professional growth.

In view of the forgoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Audiology Act of 2018*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State recognizes the essential role of
audiology as a profession in safeguarding and enhancing the health and general physical
well-being of the citizenry. Audiologic services shall therefore be promoted as a regular
component of the primary health care system.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
defined as follows:

- (a) “*Audiology*” refers to the science and art of hearing, whether normal or disordered, as
a fundamental component of human communicatory behavior; the development and
application of effective strategies leading to optimal use of sensory and oral
expressive skills in hearing-impaired children and adults; analyzing and evaluating the
auditory function through behavioral and physiologic tests; selecting, prescribing and
dispensing hearing aids, auditory assistive devices and their accessories and solutions,
and similar appliances and devices; counseling regarding educational, social or
vocational concerns that may occur as a consequence of hearing impairment; and
implementation of programs for hearing conservation, and for the prevention of
reduced auditory function; and other preventive or corrective measures or procedures
for the aid, correction, habilitation, rehabilitation or relief of human hearing, or to
attain optimum audition and comfort;
- (b) “*Audiometry*” refers to the measurement of hearing, including many procedures and
tests used to define the type, degree, and communicative consequences of hearing
loss; utilizing clinical hearing tests to evaluate sensitivity and discrimination (acuity)

1 aspects of audition; including, but not limited to tone and speech audiometry based on
2 behavioral responses, electrophysiologic procedures, acoustic-immittance measures,
3 loudness recruitment, loudness adaptation, and tests of central auditory dysfunction;
4

5 (c) "*Audiologist*" refers to a natural person who, having satisfactorily completed an
6 academic program leading to at least a master's degree in audiology or its equivalent
7 or higher degree, inclusive of at least 300 hours of supervised clinical experience,
8 followed by the equivalent of six months full-time professional experience under the
9 supervision of a certified audiologist, has passed the national Board Examination in
10 Audiology administered by the Board of Audiology, herein after called the board, and
11 has been granted a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in audiology and
12 registered with the Professional Regulation Commission herein after called the
13 commission; as being qualified to practice Audiology in the Philippines;
14

15 (d) "*Audiologist in good standing*" refers to a registered audiologist who is authorized to
16 practice the profession in the Philippines by virtue of a valid certificate of registration
17 and a valid professional license issued by the commission for the purpose;
18

19 (e) "*Audiometrist*" refers to a natural person who has satisfactorily completed the
20 required training and clinical experience for audiometrist as determined by the
21 department of education, Commission on higher education and the board of
22 audiology. As such, he/she shall be authorized to do any of the following, Provided,
23 that such shall at all times be conducted under the supervision of a licensed
24 audiologist : (1) Administering audiometric examination, including, but not limited to,
25 tone and speech audiometry based on behavioral responses, acoustic immittance
26 measure, loudness recruitment and loudness recruitment, and loudness adaption; (2)
27 Interpreting result of the same and preparing a written report on these result: and (3)
28 Counseling and provision of Non- Medical and Non-Surgical amplification devices;
29 Provided, Further, that such duties may only be performed on clients between the age
30 of seven (7) and fifty (50) years old.
31

32 (f) "*Audiometrist in good standing*" refers to a qualified audiometrist , who by virtue of a
33 valid certificate of accreditation in audiometry issued by the Board of Audiology for
34 the purpose, is authorized in the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines
35 under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing;
36

37 (g) "*Certificate of registration*" refers to a document signed by the Chair of the
38 Commission and by all members of the Board of Audiology and bearing its seal,
39 issued to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements for the practice of audiology.
40 It shall serve as proof that the registrant is qualified to practice the respective
41 professions in the Philippines;
42

43 (h) "*Professional license*" refers to a renewable card, issued by the PRC to a registered
44 audiologist, indicating that he / she is competent and authorized to practice audiology
45 in the Philippines. Until the loss of its validity or its expiration, such license shall
46 serve as evidence that its bearer is an audiologist or audiometrist in good standing;
47

- 1 (i) "*Certificate of Accreditation*" refers to a document signed by all members of the
2 Board and bearing its seal, issued to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements
3 for the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an
4 Audiologist in good standing. It shall serve as proof that the person is accredited for
5 the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an
6 Audiologist in good standing;
7
- 8 (j) "*Code of professional ethics*" refers to a set of standards relating to the conduct,
9 integrity and moral duties of audiologists, as prescribed by the duly integrated and
10 accredited national organization of audiologists, and adopted and promulgated by the
11 Board upon approval by the commission.
12

13 **ARTICLE II**
14 **THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY**
15

16 **SEC. 4. *Scope of Practice of Audiology.*** – Any of the following acts constitute the
17 practice of Audiology:
18

- 19 (a) The analysis and evaluation of human auditory function through the employment of
20 clinical subjective (behavioral) and objective (physiologic) procedures and tests to
21 measure hearing and define the type, degree, and communicative consequences of
22 hearing loss; including the use of specific instruments, tools, equipment, implements,
23 aids, apparatuses, machines, exercises and related devices, for the purpose of
24 determining the condition, sensitivity and discrimination (acuity) of human hearing to
25 correct and improve the same when not medically or surgically treatable, in
26 accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d) hereof;
27
- 28 (b) The selection, prescription and dispensing of hearing aids, auditory assistive devices
29 and their accessories and solutions, and supplies for the purpose of correcting and
30 treating defects, deficiencies and abnormalities of audition that are not medically or
31 surgically treatable;
32
- 33 (c) The use of educational techniques to enhance visual perception of speech (speech
34 reading) and to improve auditory discrimination, developing and maintaining optimal
35 speech and voice skills; conduct of auditory exercises and hearing habilitation and
36 rehabilitation, the provision of other measures, devices and procedures to aid, correct,
37 habilitate, rehabilitate or relieve abnormalities of human audition and attain optimum
38 audition and comfort except those that should be medically or surgically provided;
39
- 40 (d) The counseling of patients regarding educational, social or vocational concerns that
41 may occur as a consequence of hearing impairment; and implementation of programs
42 for hearing conservation, and for the prevention of reduced auditory function;
43
- 44 (e) The establishment of offices, clinics, and similar places where audiologic services are
45 offered; and
46
- 47 (f) The collection of professional fees for the performance of any of the acts mentioned
48 in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section.

1
2 (d) A person who has been in active practice of the profession for at least ten (10) years
3 prior to his or her appointment: *Provided*, That for purposes of creating the initial
4 Board, active practice of the profession for at least five (5) years prior to his or her
5 appointment will suffice; *Provided further*, That a person who is a member of the
6 faculty, whether full time, part time or lecturer of any school, college or university
7 where a regular course in audiology is taught, or who has any pecuniary interest,
8 directly or indirectly, in such an institution must forego his or her membership in said
9 faculty or relinquish his or her interests in said institution before or upon taking his or
10 her oath as a member of the Board; *Provided, finally*, That an incumbent officer of
11 the Philippine Society of Audiology or any audiologic association is disqualified from
12 concurrently being appointed to or serving in the Board.
13

14 **SEC. 9. *Term of Office.*** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a non-
15 renewable term of five (5) years, starting on the date of appointment and until their
16 successors shall have been appointed; *Provided, however*, That the first appointees to the
17 Board shall hold office as follows: the chairperson for five (5) years and the four (4) other
18 members for fixed terms of four (4), three (3), two (2), and one (1) year/s, such that the term
19 of one member shall be due to expire every year. Thereafter, one member shall be appointed
20 for the full term every year and such member, in the last year of his or her term, shall
21 automatically become the chairperson of the Board. Vacancies brought about by reasons
22 other than expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.
23

24 **SEC. 10. *Removal or Suspension of Board Members.*** – Any member of the Board,
25 after having been given the opportunity to defend himself or herself in a proper
26 administrative investigation conducted by the PRC, may be removed by the President of the
27 Philippines for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, or unprofessional, unethical,
28 immoral or dishonorable conduct. During the process of investigation, the President of the
29 Philippines may suspend such member under investigation for a period of not more than sixty
30 (60) days and appoint a temporary member in his place.
31

32 **SEC. 11. *Compensation of Board Members.*** – The members of the Board shall each
33 receive compensation in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Professional
34 Regulatory Commission.
35

36 **SEC. 12. *Functions and Powers of the Board.*** – The Board is hereby vested with
37 authority to:
38

- 39 (a) Promulgate the rules and regulations for the practice of audiology, subject to the
40 approval of the PRC and in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
41
42 (b) Administer and enforce the rules and regulations specified in the preceding sections;
43
44 (c) Determine, prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi and contents of, and questions
45 for licensure examinations, adopt measures to ensure the integrity thereof, correct and
46 rate the examination papers and submit the results thereof to the PRC;
47

- 1 (d) Formulate and oversee, in consultation and coordination with the PRC, guidelines for
2 the proper conduct of licensure examinations and the registration of audiologists as
3 well as the accreditation of audiometricians;
4
- 5 (e) Issue, suspend, revoke and reissue certificates of registration of qualified audiologists
6 and renew their professional licenses and issue, suspend, revoke and reissue
7 certificates of accreditation of audiometricians;
8
- 9 (f) Impose reasonable requirements and conditions, such as attendance in continuing
10 education activities and programs, for the renewal of an audiologist's license to
11 practice and for the purpose of upgrading the professional competence of audiologists
12 and audiometricians;
13
- 14 (g) Maintain a registry of audiologists and audiometricians in good standing;
15
- 16 (h) Adopt, promulgate and disseminate the Code of Ethics for the practice of audiology in
17 the Philippines;
18
- 19 (i) Administer oaths in connection with the implementation of this Act;
20
- 21 (j) Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against practitioners of
22 audiology for malpractice, unethical and unprofessional conduct, and violations of
23 this Act or its implementing rules and regulations, and in connection therewith, issue
24 subpoena *ad testificandum* and subpoena *duces tecum* and punish with contempt
25 persons obstructing, impeding and/or otherwise interfering with the conduct of such
26 proceedings;
27
- 28 (k) Conduct ocular inspections of establishments and/or premises where audiologic
29 services are offered to ascertain that professional standards are complied with;
30
- 31 (l) Upon application, to issue an order enjoining or abating the illegal practice of
32 audiology by unqualified persons;
33
- 34 (m) Impose fines and penalties, after due process and in accordance with the provision of
35 this Act, for causes provided for by law or by the rules and regulations promulgated
36 therefor;
37
- 38 (n) Evaluate periodically the status of audiologic education and recommend and/or adopt
39 measures to upgrade and maintain its high standards; and,
40
- 41 (o) Study the conditions affecting the practice of audiology in all parts of the Philippines,
42 and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the
43 maintenance of good ethics and high professional standards of audiologic practice.
44

45 **SEC. 13. *Quorum in Board Meetings.*** – The attendance of three (3) members shall
46 constitute a quorum for the Board to officially transact business.
47

1 areas: mathematics; human biology; chemistry; biochemistry; physics; psychology;
2 sociology; history, English and Filipino; and the following Audiology Major Subject
3 areas: anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing; basic acoustics for speech and
4 hearing; introduction to disorders of speech and hearing processes (pathophysiology);
5 introduction to audiology, hearing loss and audiometry; normal speech and language
6 acquisition and development; introduction to language and communication disorders;
7 psychology of language; clinical methods in audiology; aural habilitation,
8 rehabilitation and amplification; Philippine sign language; audiology ethics and
9 jurisprudence; audiology economics and practice management; environmental and
10 public health audiology; pediatric audiology; audiology practicum one and two and
11 audiology research methods; and
12

- 13 (d) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of
14 competent jurisdiction
15

16 **SEC. 20. Ratings in the Examination.** – To pass the licensure examination, a
17 candidate for audiologist must obtain a passing rating of seventy-five percent (75%) in each
18 subject given during the examination: *Provided, however,* That an examinee who obtains a
19 passing rating in the majority of the subjects but obtains a rating in other subjects below
20 seventy-five percent (75%) but not lower than sixty percent (60%), shall be allowed to take
21 one removal examination on the subjects where the passing rating was not obtained:
22 *Provided, further,* That should an examinee fail to obtain a passing rating in the removal
23 examination, the examinee shall be considered as having failed the entire licensure
24 examination: *Provided, finally,* That any candidate who fails to pass the examination in three
25 (3) successive attempts shall not be admitted in the fourth examination unless he or she could
26 present to the Board a certification that the examinee had enrolled and undergone within the
27 year preceding, a pre-board review course from a review center duly recognized by the
28 Commission.
29

30 **SEC. 21. Report of Rating.** – The Board and the PRC shall correct and rate the
31 licensure examination papers and shall release the examination results within ten (10) days
32 from the date of the examination.
33

34 **ARTICLE V**
35 **REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE OF AUDIOLOGISTS**
36

37 **SEC. 22. Oath.** – All successful examinees shall be required to take their oath before
38 the Board or before any person authorized to administer oaths prior to the issuance of the
39 certificate of registration: *Provided, however,* That the applicant is not disqualified under any
40 of the provisions of Section 24 hereof.
41

42 **SEC. 23. Disqualification.** – The following applicants shall not be allowed to take
43 their oath as audiologists nor issued certificates of registration:
44

- 45 (a) Those who do not possess the qualifications set forth in Section 19 of this Act;
46
47 (b) Those who fail to pass the Audiology Board licensure examination;
48

- 1 (c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral
2 turpitude by any court;
3
4 (d) Those who have been found guilty by the Board of immoral or dishonorable conduct;
5 and,
6
7 (e) Those who have been declared to be of unsound mind.
8

9 Such fact of disqualification shall be communicated by the Board to the applicant by written
10 statement, which statement shall form part of the records of the Board.
11

12 **SEC. 24. Registration.** – The PRC shall register successful examinees who have
13 taken their oath and thereafter grant them professional licenses to practice audiology. The
14 certificate of registration shall be considered as evidence that the registrant is qualified to
15 practice audiology in the Philippines.
16

17 **SEC. 25. Registration without Taking Licensure Examination.** – A person who
18 possesses the pertinent qualifications listed below pursuant to the provisions of this Act may
19 be registered without examination:
20

- 21 (a) Was a doctoral, masters or bachelors degree holder in Audiology from a recognized
22 institution with at least three (3) years of teaching Audiology courses and/or
23 audiology practice in the Philippines for the same period; or,
24
25 (b) Was a PRC duly-registered Doctor of Medicine in the Philippines and fully certified
26 Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery with at
27 least five (5) years clinical experience in the practice of audiology in the Philippines;
28 or,
29
30 (c) Had passed at least eighteen (18) units of tertiary level (doctoral, masteral or
31 baccalaureate) courses in Audiology and had at least seven (7) years of clinical
32 experience in audiology: *Provided*, That the applicant files with the Board within
33 three (3) years after its creation, an application for registration, issuance of a
34 Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card by submitting
35 credentials showing that the applicant was a member of good standing in the
36 Philippine Society of Audiology for three years before the effectivity of this Act.
37

38 **SEC. 26. Accreditation.** – The Board of Audiology shall grant certificates of
39 accreditation for the limited practice audiometry to successful examinees. It shall serve as
40 proof that the person is accredited for the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines
41 under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing.
42

43 **SEC. 27. Revocation of Certificates and Suspension of Professional Licenses.** – The
44 Board may, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned, revoke an
45 audiologist's certificate of registration or suspend his or her license to practice for any
46 unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this
47 Act or its rules and regulations, or upon the conviction of the audiologist of a crime involving
48 moral turpitude. The same applies to an audiometrician's certificate of accreditation.

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ARTICLE VII
PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

SEC. 32. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following acts are prohibited:

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- (a) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof for the purpose of obtaining a certification of registration or a professional license;
 - (b) Assumption, use or advertisement by a person, not holding a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license in accordance with this Act, of a description, in connection with his name or title, tending to convey the impression that he or she is a duly registered audiologist;
 - (c) Any form of advertisement in media outlets giving information and impression to the public that the particular audiologist is better than the others, is collecting lower professional fees or selling cheaper hearing aids or devices;
 - (d) Engaging in unauthorized practice of audiology as defined in Section 5 of this Act; and,
 - (e) Violation by any person, whether natural or juridical, of any of the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated for its effective implementation.

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SEC. 33. *Penal Provisions.* – The commission of any of the prohibited acts listed in the immediately preceding section shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than eight (8) years, or a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

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In addition, the administrative penalties specified in Section 27 hereof shall be imposed whenever applicable (Check does this refer to Section 28).

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If the violation is committed by an association, partnership, corporation or any other institution, the managing officers and other persons responsible for its commission shall be liable for the penalties provided for in this Act.

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ARTICLE VIII
PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

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SEC. 34. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreigner shall be admitted to the audiology board examinations unless he or she proves in the manner prescribed by the Rules of Court that by specific provision of law, the country of which he / she is a citizen, subject or national, either admits Filipino citizens to the practice of audiology without restriction, or allows them to practice audiology after an examination on terms of strict and absolute equality with citizens, subjects or nationals of said country, including the unconditional recognition of prerequisite degrees prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education; *Provided, however,* That the Board, upon approval by the PRC, may grant a special permit to a foreign audiologist to practice the profession in this country whether or not reciprocity

1 exists between his or her country and the Philippines and under such conditions as may be
2 determined by the Board, if such foreigner is internationally known to be an outstanding
3 expert in the profession or a well-known specialist in any of its branches, and that his or her
4 services will promote the advancement of the profession in the Philippines. The Board is also
5 hereby authorized to prescribe, upon approval by the PRC, additional requirements or grant
6 certain privileges to foreigners, seeking registration in the Philippines if the same privileges
7 are granted to or some additional requirements are required of citizens of the Philippines in
8 acquiring the same certificate in his country.
9

10 **SEC. 35. Rules and Regulations.** – The Board shall set professional standards for the
11 practice of audiology in the Philippines and adopt such rules and regulations as may be
12 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, subject to the approval of the PRC. Such
13 standards, rules and regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the
14 Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.
15

16 **SEC. 36. Integration of Audiologists.** – In order for every audiologist to contribute to
17 his or her profession and to bear his or her share of professional responsibilities, all
18 audiologists shall be encouraged to join and be integrated into one national organization, the
19 Philippine Society of Audiology, which shall be recognized by the Board and the PRC.
20 Every audiologist, upon registration with the Board, may become a member of the integrated
21 national organization. Those who have been registered with the Board before the effectivity
22 of this Act may register as members of the integrated organization within three (3) years after
23 said effectivity.
24

25 **SEC. 37. Purposes.** – The integrated national organization of Audiologists –
26 Philippine Society of Audiology shall promulgate the Code of Ethics for the practice of the
27 profession, define the professional responsibilities of its members, ensure adherence to said
28 professional ethics and responsibilities, improve the standards of the profession and enable all
29 audiologists to discharge their public responsibility more effectively.
30

31 **SEC. 38. Membership Fees and Dues.** – All members shall be subject to the payment
32 of reasonable fees and dues for the effective discharge of the purposes of the integrated
33 national organization, the Philippine Society of Audiology. An audiologist shall receive the
34 benefits and privileges appurtenant to his or her membership only upon payment of the
35 required membership fees and dues.
36

37 **SEC. 39. Other Organizations.** – The integration of audiologists into one national
38 organization - the Philippine Society of Audiology, shall not prohibit the creation of other
39 associations of audiologists organized by individual audiologists themselves.
40

41 **SEC. 40. Code of Professional Ethics.** – The Board shall adopt the Professional Code
42 of Ethics promulgated by the integrated national organization of audiologists – the Philippine
43 Society of Audiology; *Provided*, That such Code provides that it is the duty of an audiologist
44 to:
45

46 (a) Consider as his or her primary responsibility the auditory welfare of the public;
47

48 (b) Promote the best possible standards of professional care;

- 1
2 (c) Enhance continuously his or her theoretical and practical proficiency;
3
4 (d) Render his or her services with equal diligence to all, regardless of race, creed or
5 status;
6
7 (e) Respect the confidential nature of information concerning those he or she serves; and,
8
9 (f) Refer for medical or other professional attention where the need is indicated.
10

11 The Board shall also distribute the Code of Ethics of the Audiologic Profession in the
12 Philippines to all new audiologists during their oath taking.
13

14 Any act or omission which violates this Code shall be considered as unethical conduct
15 and shall be suspended or prohibited from the practice of audiology, in accordance with
16 Section 28 of this Act.
17

18 **ARTICLE IX**
19 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**
20

21 **SEC. 41. *Funding Provisions.*** – The Chairperson of the Commission shall include in
22 the Commission's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
23 included in the General Appropriations Act.
24

25 **SEC. 42. *Assistance of Law Enforcement Agency.*** – Any law enforcement agency
26 shall, upon call or request of the Commission or the Board, render assistance in enforcing this
27 Act, including all the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by prosecuting the
28 violators thereof in accordance with law and the Rules of Court.
29

30 **SEC. 43. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the
31 effectivity of this Act and subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall
32 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, in coordination with the integrated and
33 accredited professional organization (the Philippine Society of Audiology), to implement the
34 provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following its
35 publication in the Official Gazette or two Philippine newspapers of general circulation.
36

37 **SEC. 44. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be
38 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration
39 shall remain in full force and effect.
40

41 **SEC. 45. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent
42 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
43

44 **SEC. 46. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
45 following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,