

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

7 JUL -4 11:46

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 931

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

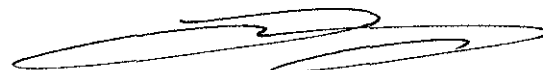
This bill seeks to require the broadcast of television programs and showing of motion pictures and other audio-visual presentations with closed caption and providing penalties for violation thereof to respond to the needs of hearing impaired individuals.

Closed-caption is a method of captioning or subtitling of television, home video programs and films for hearing-impaired or foreign language viewers without interfering with the normal television picture and films, by coding captions as vertical interval data signal which is decoded at the receiver and superimposed on the television picture or on films of motion pictures.

With the advances of information technology and the relevance of television programs, motion pictures, and other audio-visual presentation as tools of learning, there is a need to enable persons with hearing impairments to take advantage of such technology and enjoy audio-visual entertainments with their seemingly unbounded innovations.

This proposed measure aims to address such need by making it compulsory for all franchise holders or operators of television stations, producers of television programs, home video programs and motion pictures to have their programs and films broadcast with closed captions.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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7 JUL -4 A8:46

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION STATIONS, PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS, HOME VIDEO PROGRAMS AND MOTION PICTURES TO BROADCAST OR PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS AND FILMS WITH CLOSED-CAPTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. All franchise holders or operators of television stations, producers of television stations, producers of television programs, home video programs and motion pictures shall be required to have their programs and films with closed-captions so as to benefit persons with hearing impairment.

As used in this Act, closed-caption shall mean a method of captioning or subtitling of television, home video programs and films for hearing-impaired or foreign language viewers without interfering with the normal television picture and films, by coding captions as vertical interval data signal which is decoded at the receiver and superimposed on the television picture or on films of motion pictures.

SECTION 2. Any franchise holder or operator of television stations, producer of television programs, home video programs and motion pictures, who shall violate the provision of Section 1 shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court.

In case the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, or any other juridical person, the president, manager, administrator, or the person-in-charge of the management of the business shall be liable therefore. In addition, the license or permit to operate its business shall be canceled.

If the offender is an alien, in addition to the penalties herein prescribed, he shall, after service of sentence, be deported without further proceedings on the part of the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. The National Telecommunications Commission, in consultation with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and Videogram Regulatory Board, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the other provisions of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the official Gazette whichever comes earlier.

Approved,