

12 MAY -9 11:10

SENATE

S.B. No. 3190

Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The promotion of health and general physical well-being, insofar as healthy hearing is concerned, is greatly neglected in our country. This is evidenced by the dearth of qualified audiologists and their non-recognition as a profession, leading to overseas migration of the few locally-trained audiologists to other countries where they are properly recognized. This is also paralleled by the proliferation of non-qualified and untrained persons performing audiological services detrimental to the health and well-being of our citizenry.

In other countries, audiology is a well-established and recognized profession, with numerous educational and training programs in leading institutions. Only two formal training programs exist in the Philippines, with relatively low enrollment figures. Moreover, many graduates of these programs find employment overseas, where they gain the recognition they deserve. Unfortunately, unlike optometry in the field of vision, audiology is not recognized as a profession in the Philippines.

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of audiology in the Philippines, and create for this purpose a professional regulatory board of audiology. It also seeks to upgrade audiologic education and integrate audiologists and audiometricians in order to safeguard and enhance healthy hearing as a regular component of the primary health care system. Such a development will translate to better hearing for all, as the promotion of healthy hearing and diagnosis, treatment, habilitation and prevention of hearing impairment are holistically and professionally addressed.


MANNY VILLAR

12 MAY -9 AM 10

SENATE

S.B. No. 3190

Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

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.

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, DEFINITION OF TERMS

1 **Section 1. Title.** — This Act shall be known and cited as the "Audiology Act of
2 2012."

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

7 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
8 defined as follows:

9 (a) "**Audiology**" — The science and art of hearing, whether normal or disordered, as a
10 fundamental component of human communicatory behavior; the development and
11 application of effective strategies leading to optimal use of sensory and oral expressive
12 skills in hearing-impaired children and adults; analyzing and evaluating the auditory function
13 through behavioral and physiologic tests; selecting, prescribing and dispensing hearing
14 aids, auditory assistive devices and their accessories and solutions, and similar appliances
15 and devices; using educational techniques to enhance visual perception of speech (speech
16 reading) and to improve auditory discrimination; developing and maintaining optimal speech
17 and voice skills; counseling regarding educational, social or vocational concerns that may
18 occur as a consequence of hearing impairment; and implementation of programs for
19 hearing conservation, and for the prevention of reduced auditory function; and other
20 preventive or corrective measures or procedures for the aid, correction, habilitation,
21 rehabilitation or relief of human hearing, or to attain optimum audition and comfort.

22
23 (b) "**Audiometry**" — The measurement of hearing, including many procedures and tests
24 used to define the type, degree, and communicative consequences of hearing loss; utilizing
25 clinical hearing tests to evaluate sensitivity and discrimination (acuity) aspects of audition;
26 including, but not limited to tone and speech audiometry based on behavioral responses,

1 electrophysiologic procedures, acoustic-impedance measures, loudness recruitment,
2 loudness adaptation, and tests of central auditory dysfunction.

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

12 (d) **"Audiologist in good standing"** — A registered audiologist who is authorized to
13 practice the profession in the Philippines by virtue of a valid certificate of registration and a
14 valid professional license issued by the PRC for the purpose.

15 (e) **"Audiometrician"** — A natural person who has not satisfactorily completed an
16 academic program leading to a bachelor's degree in audiology or its equivalent; and has not
17 passed the national Board Examination in Audiology administered by the Board of
18 Audiology, but by virtue of accredited coursework and clinical experience has been
19 accredited by the Board of Audiology for the limited practice of Audiometry in the Philippines
20 under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing.

21 (f) **"Audiometrician in good standing"** — A qualified audiometrician who by virtue of a
22 valid certificate of accreditation in audiometry issued by the Board of Audiology for the
23 purpose is authorized in the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines under the
24 supervision of an Audiologist in good standing.

25 (g) **"Certificate of registration"** — A document signed by the Chair of the PRC and by all
26 members of the Board of Audiology and bearing its seal, issued to an applicant who has
27 satisfied the requirements for the practice of audiology. It shall serve as proof that the
28 registrant is qualified to practice the respective professions in the Philippines.
29

30 (h) **"Professional license"** — A renewable card, issued by the PRC to a registered
31 audiologist, indicating that s/he is competent and authorized to practice audiology in the
32 Philippines. Until the loss of its validity or its expiration, such license shall serve as evidence
33 that its bearer is an audiologist or audiometrician in good standing.

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35 (i) **"Certificate of Accreditation"** — A document signed by all members of the Board of
36 Audiology and bearing its seal, issued to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements
37 for the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an
38 Audiologist in good standing. It shall serve as proof that the person is accredited for the
39 limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines under the supervision of an Audiologist in
40 good standing.

41 (j) **"Code of professional ethics"** — A set of standards relating to the conduct, integrity
42 and moral duties of audiologists, as prescribed by the Philippine Society of Audiology as the
43 duly integrated and accredited national organization of audiologists, and adopted and
44 promulgated by the Board of Audiology upon approval by the PRC.

45 **ARTICLE II**
46 **THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY**

47 **Sec. 4. Acts Constituting the Practice of Audiology.** — Any of the following acts
48 constitute the practice of Audiology:

1 (a) The analysis and evaluation of human auditory function through the employment of
2 clinical subjective (behavioral) and objective (physiologic) procedures and tests to measure
3 hearing and define the type, degree, and communicative consequences of hearing loss;
4 including the use of specific instruments, tools, equipment, implements, aids, apparatuses,
5 machines, exercises and related devices, for the purpose of determining the condition,
6 sensitivity and discrimination (acuity) of human hearing to correct and improve the same
7 when not medically or surgically treatable, in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d)
8 hereof;

9
10 (b) The selection, prescription and dispensing of hearing aids, auditory assistive devices
11 and their accessories and solutions, and supplies for the purpose of correcting and treating
12 defects, deficiencies and abnormalities of audition that are not medically or surgically
13 treatable;

14 (c) The use of educational techniques to enhance visual perception of speech (speech
15 reading) and to improve auditory discrimination, developing and maintaining optimal speech
16 and voice skills; conduct of auditory exercises and hearing habilitation and rehabilitation, the
17 provision of other measures, devices and procedures to aid, correct, habilitate, rehabilitate
18 or relieve abnormalities of human audition and attain optimum audition and comfort except
19 those that should be medically or surgically provided;

20 (d) The counseling of patients regarding educational, social or vocational concerns that may
21 occur as a consequence of hearing impairment; and implementation of programs for
22 hearing conservation, and for the prevention of reduced auditory function;

23 (e) The establishment of offices, clinics, and similar places where audiologic services are
24 offered; and

25 (f) The collection of professional fees for the performance of any of the acts mentioned in
26 paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section.

27 **Sec. 5. Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Audiology.** — No
28 person shall practice audiology as defined in Section 3 of this Act nor perform any of the
29 acts constituting the practice of audiology as set forth in Section 4 hereof, without having
30 been first admitted to the practice of this profession under the provisions of this Act and its
31 implementing rules and regulations: *Provided*, That this prohibition shall not apply to
32 regularly licensed and duly registered physicians who have received post-graduate training
33 in the diagnosis and treatment of hearing disorders and ear diseases; *Provided, however*,
34 That the examination of the human ear and auditory apparatus by duly registered
35 physicians in connection with the physical examination of patients shall not be considered
36 as practice of audiology; *Provided, further*, That the evaluation and management of speech
37 and voice functions and dysfunctions by speech pathologists, therapists and phoniatriests
38 shall not be considered as the practice of audiology; *Provided, further*, That public health
39 workers and health care providers trained and involved in the government's "universal
40 newborn hearing screening program for the prevention, early diagnosis and intervention of
41 hearing loss" or Republic Act No. 9709 and other hearing conservation programs may
42 conduct only specific hearing acuity tests and hearing screening; *Provided, further*, That
43 audiometricians in good standing may only perform their limited duties and services under
44 supervision of an audiologist in good standing.

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46 **Sec. 6. Disclosure of Authority to Practice.** — An audiologist shall be required to
47 indicate his or her professional license number and the date of its expiration in the
48 documents he or she issues or signs in connection with the practice of his or her profession.
49 S/he shall also display his or her certificate of registration in a conspicuous area of his or
50 her clinic or office.

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ARTICLE III
THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY

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Sec. 7. The Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology. — There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Audiology, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the PRC, from a list of ten (10) nominees submitted by the duly integrated and accredited national organization of audiologists, the Philippine Society of Audiology.

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Sec. 8. Minimum Qualifications of Board Members. — Only persons possessed with the following qualifications may be nominated and appointed to the Board:

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(a) A natural-born citizen of the Philippines;

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(b) A duly registered audiologist in good standing holding a valid Certificate of Registration; *Provided*, That in the case of the first members of the Board of Audiology, they shall be issued Certificates of Registration as Audiologists without prior examination;

(c) At least thirty-five (35) years of age at the time of his or her appointment;

(d) Of good moral character; and

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

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

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

Sec. 11. Compensation of Board Members. — The members of the Board shall each receive compensation in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Professional Regulatory Commission.

1 **Sec. 12. Functions and Powers of the Board.** — The Board is hereby vested with
2 authority to:

3 (a) Promulgate the rules and regulations for the practice of audiology, subject to the
4 approval of the PRC and in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

5
6 (b) Administer and enforce the rules and regulations specified in the preceding sections;

7 (c) Determine, prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi and contents of, and questions for
8 licensure examinations, adopt measures to ensure the integrity thereof, correct and rate the
9 examination papers and submit the results thereof to the PRC;

10 (d) Formulate and oversee, in consultation and coordination with the PRC, guidelines for the
11 proper conduct of licensure examinations and the registration of audiologists as well as the
12 accreditation of audiometricians;

13 (e) Issue, suspend, revoke and reissue certificates of registration of qualified audiologists
14 and renew their professional licenses and issue, suspend, revoke and reissue certificates of
15 accreditation of audiometricians;

16 (f) Impose reasonable requirements and conditions, such as attendance in continuing
17 education activities and programs, for the renewal of an audiologist's license to practice and
18 for the purpose of upgrading the professional competence of audiologists and
19 audiometricians;

20 (g) Maintain a registry of audiologists and audiometricians in good standing;

21 (h) Adopt, promulgate and disseminate the Code of Ethics for the practice of audiology in
22 the Philippines;

23 (i) Administer oaths in connection with the implementation of this Act;

24 (j) Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against practitioners of
25 audiology for malpractice, unethical and unprofessional conduct, and violations of this Act or
26 its implementing rules and regulations, and in connection therewith, issue subpoena ad
27 testificandum and subpoena duces tecum and punish with contempt persons obstructing,
28 impeding and/or otherwise interfering with the conduct of such proceedings;

29 (k) Conduct ocular inspections of establishments and/or premises where audiologic services
30 are offered to ascertain that professional standards are complied with;

31 (l) Upon application, to issue an order enjoining or abating the illegal practice of audiology
32 by unqualified persons;

33 (m) Impose fines and penalties, after due process and in accordance with the provision of
34 this Act, for causes provided for by law or by the rules and regulations promulgated therefor;

35 (n) Evaluate periodically the status of audiologic education and recommend and/or adopt
36 measures to upgrade and maintain its high standards; and

37 (p) Study the conditions affecting the practice of audiology in all parts of the Philippines,
38 and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the
39 maintenance of good ethics and high professional standards of audiologic practice.

40 **Sec. 13. Quorum in Board Meetings.** — The attendance of three (3) members
41 shall constitute a quorum for the Board to officially transact business.
42

1 environmental and public health audiology; pediatric audiology; audiology practicum one
2 and two and audiology research methods.

3 **Sec. 20. Minimum Passing Level.** — In order that the candidate may be
4 considered to have successfully passed the examination, he or she must have obtained a
5 general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in all subjects, with no rating below
6 fifty percent (50%) in any subject.
7

8 **Sec. 21. Report of the Result of the Examination.** — The Board shall report the
9 ratings obtained by each candidate to the PRC within sixty (60) days after the last
10 examination day, unless extended by the Commission. The PRC shall cause the publication
11 of the names of successful candidates in alphabetical order, without the ratings obtained by
12 each, within sixty (60) days of the date the Commission receives the aforementioned report
13 from the Board.

14 **Sec. 22. Additional Requirement for Reexamination.** — Any applicant who, for
15 the third time, fails to pass the board examination shall not be allowed to take the next
16 succeeding examination without submitting to the Board proof that he or she has taken a
17 refresher course in a duly accredited institute.

18 **SECTION V**
19 **REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE OF AUDIOLOGISTS**

20 **Sec. 23. Oath of Audiologists.** — All successful examinees shall be required to
21 take their oath before the Board or before any person authorized to administer oaths prior to
22 the issuance of the certificate of registration: *Provided, however,* That the applicant is not
23 disqualified under any of the provisions of Section 24 hereof.

24 **Sec. 24. Disqualification.** — The following applicants shall not be allowed to take
25 their oath as audiologists nor issued certificates of registration:

- 26 (a) Those who do not possess the qualifications set forth in Section 19 of this Act;
27
28 (b) Those who fail to pass the Audiology Board licensure examination;

29 (c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude
30 by any court;

31 (d) Those who have been found guilty by the Board of immoral or dishonorable conduct;
32 and

33 (e) Those who have been declared to be of unsound mind.

34 Such fact of disqualification shall be communicated by the Board to the applicant by written
35 statement, which statement shall form part of the records of the Board.
36

37 **Sec. 25. Registration.** — The PRC shall register successful examinees who have
38 taken their oath and thereafter grant them professional licenses to practice audiology. The
39 certificate of registration shall be considered as evidence that the registrant is qualified to
40 practice audiology in the Philippines.
41

42 **Sec. 26. Registration Without Taking Licensure Examination.** A person who
43 possesses the pertinent qualifications listed below pursuant to the provisions of this act
44 may be registered without examination:

- 45 (a) Was a doctoral, masters or bachelors degree holder in Audiology from a recognized
46 institution with at least three (3) years of teaching Audiology courses and/or audiology
47 practice in the Philippines for the same period; or

1 (b) Was a PRC duly-registered Doctor of Medicine in the Philippines and fully certified
2 Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery with at least
3 five (5) years clinical experience in the practice of audiology in the Philippines; or

4 (c) Had passed at least eighteen (18) units of tertiary level (doctoral, masteral or
5 baccalaureate) courses in Audiology and had at least seven (7) years of clinical experience
6 in audiology.

7 *Provided*, That the applicant files with the Board within three (3) years after its creation, an
8 application for registration, issuance of a Certificate of Registration and Professional
9 Identification Card by submitting credentials showing that the applicant was a member of
10 good standing in the Philippine Society of Audiology for three years before the effectivity of
11 this Act

12
13 **Sec. 27. Accreditation.** — The Board of Audiology shall grant certificates of
14 accreditation for the limited practice audiometry to successful examinees. It shall serve as
15 proof that the person is accredited for the limited practice of audiometry in the Philippines
16 under the supervision of an Audiologist in good standing.

17 **Sec. 28. Revocation of Certificates and Suspension of Professional Licenses.**
18 — The Board may, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned, revoke an
19 audiologist's certificate of registration or suspend his or her license to practice for any
20 unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this
21 Act or its **rules and regulations**, or upon the conviction of the audiologist of a crime involving
22 moral turpitude. The same applies to an audiometrician's certificate of accreditation.

23 **Sec. 29. Appeals.** — The revocation of a certificate or suspension of a professional
24 license by the Board shall become final unless appealed to the PRC within fifteen (15) days
25 from receipt of the decision.

26 **Sec. 30. Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificates.** — The
27 Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate any
28 suspended certificate of registration or accreditation, or issue another certificate in lieu of
29 one previously revoked, and in so doing it may, in its discretion, exempt the applicant from
30 taking another examination.

31 A new certificate to replace any certificate lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued
32 subject to the rules that may be implemented by the Board.

33 **Sec. 31. Renewal of Professional Licenses.** — All licenses shall be renewable
34 every three (3) years and shall be considered renewed only upon satisfying the
35 requirements imposed by the Board, such as attendance in continuing education programs
36 and payment of the corresponding fees as may be fixed by the Board in accordance with
37 the schedule of fees fixed by the PRC.

38 SECTION VI 39 AUDIOLOGIC EDUCATION

40 **Sec. 32. The Technical Panel on Audiologic Education.** — To attain the
41 objective of upgrading Audiologic education in the Philippines, the Commission on Higher
42 Education, pursuant to Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7722 shall, within sixty (60) days
43 after the approval of this Act, convene and organize a technical panel on audiologic
44 education. For this purpose, senior practitioners, specialists, academicians in the field of
45 audiology and a representative from the Philippine Society of Audiology as the accredited
46 national organization of audiologists shall be appointed and tapped to assist in the following:

47 (a) Setting a minimum standard curriculum for the study of audiology to be implemented in
48 all schools offering audiology as an undergraduate course and degree;

1
2 (b) Establishing teaching standards, including the qualifications of members of the faculty
3 of schools and colleges of audiology.

4 (c) Monitoring the progress of the program on the study of audiology and undertaking
5 measures or the attainment of a high quality of audiologic education in the country; and

6 (d) *Evaluating periodically the performance of educational institutions offering audiologic*
7 *education for the purpose of granting accreditation and incentives as well as for the*
8 *imposition of sanctions when warranted..*

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10 **SECTION VII**
PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

11 **Sec. 33. Prohibited Acts.** — The following acts are prohibited:

12 (a) Giving false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof for
13 the purpose of obtaining a certification of registration or a professional license.

14
15 (b) Assumption, use or advertisement by a person, not holding a valid certificate of
16 registration and a valid professional license in accordance with this Act, of a description, in
17 connection with his name or title, tending to convey the impression that he or she is a duly
18 registered audiologist.

19 (c) Any form of advertisement in media outlets giving information and impression to the
20 public that the particular audiologist is better than the others, is collecting lower professional
21 fees or selling cheaper hearing aids or devices;

22 (d) Engaging in unauthorized practice of audiology as defined in Section 5 of this Act; and

23 (g) Violation by any person, whether natural or juridical, of any of the provisions of this Act
24 and the rules and regulations promulgated for its effective implementation.

25 **Sec. 34. Penal Provisions.** — The commission of any of the prohibited acts listed
26 in the immediately preceding section shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than
27 one (1) year but not more than eight (8) years, or a fine of not less than Fifty thousand
28 pesos (P50, 000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or
29 both, at the discretion of the court.

30
31 In addition, the administrative penalties specified in Section 27 hereof shall be
32 imposed whenever applicable.(Check does this refer to Section 28)

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

36 **SECTION VIII**
PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

37
38 **Sec. 35. Foreign Reciprocity.** — No foreigner shall be admitted to the audiology
39 board examinations unless he or she proves in the manner prescribed by the Rules of Court
40 that by specific provision of law, the country of which s/he is a citizen, subject or national,
41 either admits Filipino citizens to the practice of audiology without restriction, or allows them
42 to practice audiology after an examination on terms of strict and absolute equality with
43 citizens, subjects or nationals of said country, including the unconditional recognition of
44 prerequisite degrees prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education: *Provided,*
45 *however,* That the Board, upon approval by the PRC, may grant a special permit to a

1 foreign audiologist to practice the profession in this country whether or not reciprocity exists
2 between his or her country and the Philippines and under such conditions as may be
3 determined by the Board, if such foreigner is internationally known to be an outstanding
4 expert in the profession or a well-known specialist in any of its branches, and that his or her
5 services will promote the advancement of the profession in the Philippines. The Board is
6 also hereby authorized to prescribe, upon approval by the PRC, additional requirements or
7 grant certain privileges to foreigners, seeking registration in the Philippines if the same
8 privileges are granted to or some additional requirements are required of citizens of the
9 Philippines in acquiring the same certificate in his country.

10 **Sec. 36. Rules and Regulations.** — The Board shall set professional standards for
11 the 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 **Sec. 37. Integration of Audiologists.** — In order for every audiologist to contribute
16 to his or her profession and to bear his or her share of professional responsibilities, all
17 audiologists shall be encouraged to join and be integrated into one national organization,
18 the Philippine Society of Audiology, which shall be recognized by the Board and the PRC.
19 Every audiologist, upon registration with the Board, may become a member of the
20 integrated national organization. Those who have been registered with the Board before the
21 effectivity of this Act may register as members of the integrated organization within three (3)
22 years after said effectivity.

23 **Sec. 38. Purposes.** — The integrated national organization of Audiologists-
24 Philippine Society of Audiology shall promulgate the Code of Ethics for the practice of the
25 profession, define the professional responsibilities of its members, ensure adherence to
26 said professional ethics and responsibilities, improve the standards of the profession and
27 enable all audiologists to discharge their public responsibility more effectively.

28 **Sec. 39. Membership Fees and Dues.** — All members shall be subject to the
29 payment of reasonable fees and dues for the effective discharge of the purposes of the
30 integrated national organization, the Philippine Society of Audiology. An audiologist shall
31 receive the *benefits and privileges* appurtenant to his or her membership only upon
32 payment of the required membership fees and dues.

33 **Sec. 40. Other Organizations.** — The integration of audiologists into one national
34 organization – the Philippine Society of Audiology, shall not prohibit the creation of other
35 associations of audiologists organized by individual audiologists themselves.

36 **Sec. 41. Code of Professional Ethics.** — The Board shall adopt the Professional
37 Code of Ethics promulgated by the integrated national organization of audiologists- the
38 Philippine Society of Audiology: Provided, that such Code provides that it is the duty of an
39 audiologist to:

- 40 (a) Consider as his or her primary responsibility the auditory welfare of the public;
- 41
- 42 (b) Promote the best possible standards of professional care;
- 43 (c) Enhance continuously his or her theoretical and practical proficiency;
- 44 (d) Render his or her services with equal diligence to all, regardless of race, creed or status;
- 45 (e) Respect the confidential nature of information concerning those he or she serves; and
- 46 (f) Refer for medical or other professional attention where the need is indicated.

1 The Board shall also distribute the Code of Ethics of the Audiologic Profession in the
2 Philippines to all new audiologists during their oathtaking.

3
4 Any act or omission which violates this Code shall be considered as unethical conduct and
5 shall be suspended or prohibited from the practice of audiology, in accordance with Section
6 27 of this Act. (Check does this refer to Section 28)

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8 **SECTION IX**
9 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

10 **Sec. 42. Funding Provisions.** - The Chairperson of the Commission shall include in
11 the Commission's Programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
12 included in the General Appropriations Act.

13 **Sec. 43. Assistance of Law Enforcement Agency.** - Any law enforcement agency
14 shall, upon call or request of the Commission or the Board, render assistance in enforcing
15 this Act, including all the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by prosecuting the
16 violators thereof in accordance with law and the Rules of Court.

17
18 **Sec. 44. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days after the
19 effectivity of this Act,

20 Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall promulgate the
21 necessary rules and regulations, in coordination with the integrated and accredited
22 professional organization (the Philippine Society of Audiology), to implement the provisions
23 of this Act, which shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the
24 Official Gazette or two Philippine newspapers of general circulation.

25 **Sec. 45. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act or the application of
26 such provision to any person or circumstances is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the
27 remainder of this Act or the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstance
28 shall not be affected by such declaration.

29 **Sec. 46. Repealing Clause.** — This Act repeals and supersedes all other acts,
30 executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
31 this Act, which are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

32 **Sec. 47. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
33 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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37 **Approved,**
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