



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8529

BY REPRESENTATIVES ALEJANO, NIETO, MACEDA, TAN (A.),
VILLAFUERTE, ANTONIO, VARGAS, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, NAVA,
ENVERGA, SY-ALVARADO, DALIPE, BORDADO, TAMBUNTING,
MARIÑO, ZAMORA (M.C.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), AGGABAO,
TEJADA, DUAVIT, DEL MAR, LOBREGAT, SAMBAR, HOFER,
ALMONTE, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, GONZALEZ, RAMOS, VILLARICA,
ABELLANOSA, MANGAOANG, BULUT-BEGTANG, YU, MARQUEZ,
GASATAYA, UNGAB, SARMIENTO (E.M.), SILVERIO, UY (J.),
CANAMA, LACSON, GO (M.), BROSAS, LAGMAN, CAMINERO,
LEACHON AND VIOLAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 919

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH
LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the
important role of speech language pathologists in nation building

1 and promotes the sustained development of a corps of speech
2 language pathologists whose competence have been determined
3 by honest and credible licensure examinations, and whose
4 standards of professional practice and services are world-class,
5 internationally-recognized, and globally competitive through
6 regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their
7 continuing professional growth.

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

9 (a) *Communication disorder* refers to the impairment in the
10 ability to: (1) receive and/or process symbol systems; (2) represent
11 concepts in systems; or (3) transmit and use symbol systems. The
12 impairment may be observed in the disorders of hearing, language,
13 and speech processes.

14 (b) *Diagnosis* refers to the act of identifying a human
15 communication or swallowing abnormality or disorder by analyzing
16 the symptoms presented. It may also include a study of the origin
17 and development of the symptoms.

18 (c) *Evaluation* refers to the global appraisal of the
19 significance and implications of a diagnostic assessment that may
20 include formal and informal procedures.

21 (d) *Language* refers to any socially and culturally accepted,
22 structured symbolic system for interpersonal communication
23 composed of sounds, letters, manual sign or other symbols arranged
24 in ordered sequences or strings that express thoughts, intentions,
25 experiences and feelings comprised of orthographic, phonological,
26 syntactic, semantic or pragmatic components.

1 (e) *Speech* refers to the medium of oral communication that
2 employs a linguistic code (language). Through this medium, one can
3 express thoughts and feelings, and understand those of others who
4 employ the same code.

5 (f) *Speech language pathologist* refers to a person who is
6 registered and licensed to practice speech language pathology and
7 who holds a valid certificate of registration and professional
8 identification card issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of
9 Speech Language Pathology and the Professional Regulation
10 Commission under the provisions of this Act.

11 (g) *Speech language pathology* refers to the allied health
12 profession devoted to the evaluation, diagnosis, management, and
13 prevention of human communication and swallowing disorders.

14 (h) *Swallowing disorder* refers to difficulties in the
15 management of a solid or liquid bolus in the oral, pharyngeal, or
16 laryngeal stages of feeding.

17 ARTICLE II

18 THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF SPEECH

19 LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

20 SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* – Within
21 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, there shall be
22 created the Professional Regulatory Board of Speech Language
23 Pathology, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the
24 administrative supervision and control of the Professional
25 Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission.
26 The Board shall be composed of a chairperson and two (2) members
27 who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the

1 three (3) recommendees for each vacant position chosen from the
2 five (5) nominees of the Accredited Integrated Professional
3 Organization (AIPO) of speech language pathologists.

4 SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* - The
5 chairperson or member of the Board shall, at the time of
6 appointment, possess the following qualifications:

7 (a) A natural born citizen of the Philippines and an actual
8 resident thereof for at least five (5) years before appointment;

9 (b) A duly registered and licensed speech language
10 pathologist holding a valid certificate of registration and
11 professional identification card, in active practice for the past five
12 (5) years and a member in good standing of the AIPO of speech
13 language pathologists prior to appointment, except if appointed as
14 the first chairperson or member;

15 (c) Of good moral character and must not have been convicted
16 of any offense involving moral turpitude; and

17 (d) Must neither have pecuniary interest, directly or
18 indirectly, in any school, academy, college, university or institution
19 conferring an academic degree necessary for admission to the
20 practice of speech language pathology, or where review classes in
21 preparation for the licensure examination are being offered or
22 conducted, nor be a member of the faculty or of the administration
23 thereof.

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

26 (a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations
27 necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;

- 1 (b) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of
2 this Act;
- 3 (c) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and
4 practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines;
- 5 (d) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 6 (e) Maintain a roster of speech language pathologists
7 indicating therein basic information about the professionals;
- 8 (f) Study the conditions affecting the practice of speech
9 language pathology in the Philippines and adopt measures for the
10 enhancement of the professional, ethical and technical standards of
11 the practice;
- 12 (g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher
13 Education (CHED), that all educational institutions offering speech
14 language pathology education comply with the policies, standards
15 and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the
16 areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- 17 (h) Adopt a Code of Ethics for speech language pathologists;
- 18 (i) Develop and maintain standards for the practice of speech
19 language pathology;
- 20 (j) Issue, suspend, revoke, and reinstate the certificate of
21 registration or cancel special temporary permit for the practice of
22 speech language pathology;
- 23 (k) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing
24 Professional Development (CPD) program for speech language
25 pathology;
- 26 (l) Prescribe the area of competence to be included in the
27 examination and their relative weights: determine the syllabi and

1 Tables of Specifications (TOS) of the examination subjects, in
2 consultation with the AIPO of speech language pathologists and the
3 duly recognized association of schools conferring a bachelor's or
4 other entry level degree in speech language pathology; construct the
5 test questions in licensure examinations; and score and rate the
6 examination papers;

7 (m) Hear or investigate any violation of this Act, its
8 implementing rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics for
9 speech language pathologists, and for this purpose, to issue
10 *subpoena duces tecum* and/or *ad testificandum* to secure the
11 appearance of the witnesses and the production of documents in
12 connection therewith: *Provided*, That the decision of the Board
13 shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and
14 executory fifteen (15) days from receipt of the judgment or decision;

15 (n) Grant registration without examination, subject to the
16 approval by the Commission;

17 (o) Issue or cancel certificates of recognition for advanced
18 studies, researches and accomplishments that contribute to the
19 enrichment of the profession; and

20 (p) Perform such other powers and functions as it may deem
21 necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

22 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued or
23 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and
24 approval of the Commission.

25 SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* – The chairperson and members of
26 the Board shall hold office for three (3) years after appointment or
27 until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified:

1 *Provided*, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the
2 approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms:
3 chairperson for three (3) years, one member for two (2) years, and
4 the other member for one (1) year: *Provided, further*, That the
5 chairperson or any member may be reappointed for another term of
6 three (3) years but in no case shall the individual serve continuously
7 for more than six (6) years. Vacancy in the Board shall be filled for
8 the unexpired term only. Each member of the Board shall
9 automatically be registered as speech language pathologist and
10 issued a certificate of registration and professional identification
11 card and shall take the proper oath of office prior to assumption.

12 SEC. 8. *Compensation of the Members of the Professional*
13 *Regulatory Board.* - The chairperson and members of the Board
14 shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to those
15 being received by the chairpersons and members of existing
16 regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the
17 annual General Appropriations Act.

18 SEC. 9. *Suspension or Removal of Board Members.* -
19 Any member of the Board may be suspended or removed
20 from office for gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice,
21 unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct,
22 final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, manipulation
23 or rigging of the licensure examination results, and disclosure of
24 secret and confidential information in the examination questions
25 prior to the conduct of the said examination, or tampering of
26 grades.

1 The administrative proceedings shall be heard by the
2 Commission, whose recommendation shall be submitted to the
3 Office of the President. During the investigation, the respondent
4 shall be placed under preventive suspension by the Commission and
5 another qualified individual shall be designated to fill the
6 temporary vacancy in the Board.

7 SEC. 10. *Supervision of the Board, Custody of its Records,*
8 *Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the
9 administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the
10 Board, including applications for examination, and administrative
11 and other investigative cases conducted by the Board shall be under
12 the custody of the Commission.

13 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board
14 and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to
15 implement the provisions of this Act.

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

22 ARTICLE III

23 LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

24 SEC. 12. *Examination Required.* – Unless otherwise provided
25 in this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of speech
26 language pathology shall be required to undergo a licensure
27 examination to be administered by the Board in such places and

1 dates as the Commission may designate, subject to compliance with
2 the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

3 SEC. 13. *Qualification for Examination.* – In order to be
4 admitted in the licensure examination, it must be established to the
5 satisfaction of the Board that, at the time of filing of application, the
6 applicant is:

7 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or of a foreign state/country
8 which observes reciprocity with the Philippines for the practice of
9 speech language pathology;

10 (b) Of good moral character;

11 (c) Has not been convicted of any crime involving moral
12 turpitude; and

13 (d) A graduate of a bachelor's degree in speech language
14 pathology from a school, college or university in the Philippines or
15 abroad that is recognized by the CHED.

16 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – The coverage of the
17 licensure examination for speech language pathologists shall
18 include the following:

19 (a) Anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing
20 mechanism;

21 (b) Neurological bases of speech and hearing disorders;

22 (c) Articulation and phonological disorders;

23 (d) Hearing impairment and aural habilitation;

24 (e) Language and cognitive communication disorders;

25 (f) Fluency disorders;

26 (g) Voice disorders;

27 (h) Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Conditions;

1 (i) Dysphagia;

2 (j) Medical and neurological disorders that may cause
3 communication and swallowing disorders; and

4 (k) Normal development and function of speech, language,
5 hearing and swallowing;

6 (l) Principles of assessment and intervention for speech,
7 language, hearing and swallowing conditions; and

8 (m) Research, Professional Ethics and Community
9 Development.

10 The coverage of the speech language pathology licensure
11 examination, including the percentage weights of the examination
12 subjects, shall be determined, or may be modified, reclustered or
13 rearranged by the Board, as the need arises, to conform to changes
14 in the standards of practice.

15 SEC. 15. *Registration Without Examination as Speech*
16 *Language Pathologist.* – A person who possesses the pertinent
17 qualifications required for admission in the licensure examination
18 for speech language pathologists pursuant to the provisions of this
19 Act may be registered without examination: *Provided*, That the
20 applicant files with the Board, within one (1) year after the
21 effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations, an application
22 for registration and issuance of a certificate of registration and
23 professional identification card by submitting credentials showing
24 that the applicant before the effectivity of this Act holds a bachelor's
25 degree in speech language pathology from a college or university
26 recognized by the CHED: *Provided, further*, That the applicant is a
27 certified member of the AIPO of speech language pathologists.

1 SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Examination.* – To be qualified as
2 having passed the licensure examination for speech language
3 pathologists, a candidate must have obtained a general weighted
4 average of at least seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower
5 than fifty percent (50%) in any given subject of the examination.

6 SEC. 17. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the
7 Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10)
8 calendar days after the examination unless extended for just cause.

9 SEC. 18. *Oath of Profession of Speech Language Pathologists.*
10 – All individuals admitted for registration, with or without
11 examination, shall be required to take an oath of profession before
12 any member of the Board or any officer of the Commission
13 authorized to administer oaths prior to entering the practice of
14 speech language pathology in the Philippines.

15 SEC. 19. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and*
16 *Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration and
17 professional identification card shall be issued to all registrants,
18 with or without examination, upon the registrants' compliance with
19 all the legal requirements, including payment of fees prescribed by
20 the Commission. The certificate of registration shall bear the
21 signature of the chairperson of the Commission and the chairperson
22 and members of the Board and shall indicate that the person named
23 therein is entitled to the practice of the profession with all the
24 privileges appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall
25 remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or
26 revoked in accordance with this Act.

1 A professional identification card bearing the registration
2 number and dates of issuance and expiry, duly signed by the
3 Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to every
4 registrant who has complied with all the requirements set by the
5 Board and the Commission, including the payment of prescribed
6 fees.

7 SEC. 20. *Indication of Certificate of Registration and*
8 *Professional Tax Receipt.* – All documents that the speech language
9 pathologist signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of
10 the profession shall indicate the speech language pathologist's
11 certificate of registration number, dates of validity and expiry of the
12 professional identification card and the income tax registration
13 number.

14 SEC. 21. *Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall not register
15 any successful examinee who has been convicted by final judgment
16 by a court of competent jurisdiction of any offense involving moral
17 turpitude or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable
18 conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be
19 of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in
20 writing.

21 SEC. 22. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of*
22 *Registration/Professional License and Professional Identification*
23 *Card and Cancellation of Special Permit.* – The Board may, after
24 giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the
25 practitioner's certificate of registration or suspend the practice, or
26 cancel the special temporary permit for any of the causes or grounds
27 mentioned in Section 21 of this Act or for any unprofessional or

1 unethical conduct, malpractice, and violation of any of the
2 provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the
3 Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for speech language
4 pathologists.

5 SEC. 23. *Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of*
6 *Certificate of Registration/Professional License.* – A person may
7 apply to the Board for reinstatement of the certificate of registration
8 two (2) years from the date of its revocation. The application shall
9 be in writing and shall conform with the requirements as provided
10 by the Board. No certificate of registration shall be reinstated
11 unless the Board is satisfied that a good cause exists to warrant
12 reinstatement.

13 A suspended certificate of registration and professional
14 identification card may be reinstated: *Provided*, That the suspended
15 speech language pathologist has established fitness to practice
16 anew. The Board shall issue a resolution to effect such
17 reinstatement.

18 SEC. 24. *Roster of Speech Language Pathologists.* – The
19 Board shall prepare, update and maintain a roster of speech
20 language pathologists, in coordination with the AIPO. The roster
21 shall contain the names of the speech language pathologists, their
22 respective certificate of registration numbers, and other data which
23 the Board may deem pertinent.

24 SEC. 25. *Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.* – Special
25 temporary permits may be issued by the Board, subject to the
26 approval by the Commission and payment of the fees, to the
27 following persons:

1 (a) A foreign speech language pathologist called for
2 consultation for a specific purpose which, in the judgment of the
3 Board, is essential to the growth of the profession: *Provided,*
4 *however,* That the activities shall be limited only to the particular
5 work for which the foreign practitioner is being engaged: *Provided,*
6 *further,* That the person is qualified to practice the profession in
7 the state or country of origin: *Provided, finally,* That there is no
8 Filipino speech language pathologist qualified for such work;

9 (b) A foreign speech language pathologist who is an
10 internationally recognized expert or specialist in any branch of
11 speech language pathology and whose services are essential for the
12 advancement of speech language pathology in the Philippines; and

13 (c) A foreign speech language pathologist to be engaged as
14 professor, lecturer, or critic in fields essential to speech language
15 pathology education in the Philippines.

16 The special temporary permit shall provide for the limitations
17 and conditions for its issuance, which shall include the following:
18 validity of the special temporary permit which shall be for a period
19 of not more than one (1) year, but subject to renewal at the
20 discretion of the Board; the branch or specialty of speech language
21 pathology to practice or engage in; and the specific place of practice
22 such as clinic, hospital, center, or school/college/university. The
23 Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe
24 the rules and regulations for the implementation of this particular
25 section.

26 SEC. 26. *Issuance of Certificates of Recognition.* – The Board
27 shall prescribe guidelines for the issuance of Certificates of

1 Recognition for advanced studies, researches and accomplishments
2 that contribute to the enrichment of the profession.

3 ARTICLE IV

4 PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

5 SEC. 27. *Scope of the Practice of Speech Language Pathology.*

6 – The scope of the practice of speech language pathology shall
7 embrace the performance, in collaboration with other professionals,
8 families and the community, of any of the following:

9 (a) Screening, identifying, assessing, diagnosing, managing
10 and preventing disorders of communication such as articulation,
11 fluency, voice, hearing and language;

12 (b) Screening, identifying, assessing, diagnosing, managing
13 and preventing disorders of oral-pharyngeal functions such as
14 dysphagia and related disorders;

15 (c) Screening, identifying, assessing, diagnosing, and
16 managing cognitive communication systems and provide training in
17 their use;

18 (d) Assessing, selecting, and developing augmentative and
19 alternative communication systems and providing training in
20 their use;

21 (e) Screening hearing acuity for the purpose of speech
22 language evaluation and aural rehabilitation;

23 (f) Planning, teaching, and carrying out home programs and
24 training for patients and their families:

25 (g) Planning, conducting, and evaluating teaching-learning
26 activities for students of speech language pathology and other

1 related courses, and for other practitioners, patients, their families
2 and the general public;

3 (h) Planning, conducting, and evaluating researches in
4 pursuit of new knowledge for the growth of speech language
5 pathology in the Philippines;

6 (i) Providing consultancy to government and nongovernment
7 organizations regarding the field of speech language pathology; and

8 (j) Teaching, lecturing, and reviewing subjects given in the
9 licensure examination.

10 SEC. 28. *Positions in Public and Private Entities Requiring*
11 *the Services of Speech Language Pathologists.* – Within one (1) year
12 from the effectivity of this Act, all existing and proposed positions in
13 public and private entities primarily requiring the services of speech
14 language pathologists shall accordingly be filled only by speech
15 language pathologists.

16 SEC. 29. *Prohibition on the Practice of Speech Language*
17 *Pathology.* – No person shall practice or offer to practice speech
18 language pathology in the Philippines or pass off oneself as a speech
19 language pathologist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or a sign
20 tending to convey the impression that one is a speech language
21 pathologist, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that
22 one is qualified to perform the work of a speech language
23 pathologist unless one has satisfactorily passed the licensure
24 examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in
25 this Act, and is a holder of a valid certificate of registration and
26 professional identification card or a valid special temporary permit
27 duly issued by the Board and the Commission.

1 SEC. 30. *Prohibited Acts.* – No person shall:

2 (a) Engage in the practice of speech language pathology by
3 representing oneself as a speech language pathologist without a
4 valid certificate of registration and professional identification card
5 or a valid special temporary permit granted by the Board pursuant
6 to this Act;

7 (b) Practice the profession during the period of one's
8 suspension from the practice thereof;

9 (c) Allow an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the
10 profession by using one's certificate of registration, professional
11 identification card or special temporary permit; and

12 (d) Use as one's own the certificate of registration,
13 professional identification card or special temporary permit of
14 another.

15 SEC. 31. *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Speech*
16 *Language Pathologists.* – The Board shall prescribe, adopt, and
17 promulgate the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for speech
18 language pathologists, in consultation with the AIPO of speech
19 language pathologists.

20 SEC. 32. *Integration of All Speech Language Pathologists.* –
21 The speech language pathology profession shall be integrated into
22 one (1) national professional organization of speech language
23 pathologists which shall be duly registered with the Securities and
24 Exchange Commission. The Board, subject to approval by the
25 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and
26 only AIPO of speech language pathologists. All speech language
27 pathologists whose names appear in the Registry Book of speech

1 language pathologists shall *ipso facto* or automatically become
2 members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges
3 appurtenant thereto upon payment of the AIPO membership fees
4 and dues.

5 Membership in the AIPO shall not bar membership in other
6 organizations of speech language pathologists.

7 SEC. 33. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign speech language
8 pathologist shall be given a certificate of registration and
9 professional identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges
10 under this Act unless the country of which the foreigner is a subject
11 or citizen specifically permits Filipino speech language pathologists
12 to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the
13 subjects or citizens of said country or state.

14 SEC. 34. *An Act Not Affecting Other Professions.* – This Act
15 shall not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other
16 legally recognized profession.

17 ARTICLE V

18 FINAL PROVISIONS

19 SEC. 35. *Funding Provision.* – The Chairperson of the
20 Commission shall immediately include in its programs the
21 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
22 in the annual General Appropriations Act and thereafter.

23 SEC. 36. *Penal Provision.* – Any person who shall violate
24 any of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules
25 and regulations as promulgated by the Board, and approved by the
26 Commission shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less
27 than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) but not more than Fifty

1 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than
2 two (2) years but not more than five (5) years, or both, at the
3 discretion of the court.

4 SEC. 37. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six
5 (6) months from the passage of this Act, the Board shall, subject to
6 the approval of the Commission, promulgate the rules and
7 regulations and the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for
8 speech language pathologists to effectively implement its provisions.

9 SEC. 38. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision
10 of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such
11 shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Act.

12 SEC. 39. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders,
13 issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
14 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15 SEC. 40. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
16 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a major
17 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

O