

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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08 AUG 2016

DATE:

TIME: 9:11 AM

BY: *Poxde*

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Introduced by Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

House Bill No. 2588

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill was originally introduced as House Bill No. 1055 during the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress where it was approved by the Committee on Public Information and substituted by House Bill No. 6709, approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and was transmitted to the Senate where it was not acted upon. It was re-filed during the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress where it was once again approved by the House of Representatives.

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

Closed-caption is a method of captioning or subtitling of television, home video programs and films for hearing-impaired or foreign language viewer without interfering with the normal television picture and films, by coding caption 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 of 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.



MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

REQUIRING THE USE OF FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS FOR LOCAL NEWS PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)"

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

SECTION 1. Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 22. *Broadcast Media.* – **ALL FREE-TO-AIR [T]Television stations [shall be encouraged] ARE REQUIRED to provide [a] FILIPINO sign[-]language insetS, AND WHERE POSSIBLE, CLOSED CAPTIONS or subtitles in at least [one (1)] TWO (2) newscast programS a day and special programs covering events of national significance.**

**"THE FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION STATIONS MAY LIKEWISE OPT TO PROVIDE FOR FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS IN OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE PERTAINING TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIVELIHOOD AND THOSE CATERING TO CHILDREN."**

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation

Approved,