

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

19th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5294



Introduced by **HONORABLE PETER B. MIGUEL**

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO GIVE
FREE HEARING AID TO DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Remaining true to its mandate of providing programs and services to vulnerable sectors of society, such as persons with disability, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated to give free assistive devices, such as hearing aid for the deaf or hearing impaired indigent individuals, for each DSWD Field Office every year, starting this year.

The person with disability sector is among the most affected by the declaration of community quarantine brought about by the spread of COVID-19 in the country. To help them regain and develop their self and social enhancement, the DSWD, through its Field Offices will provide augmentation support for the assistive devices for deaf/hearing impaired and physically challenged individuals.

These devices may include hearing aids with beamforming technology, customized headphones, and Cochlear implant for deaf and hearing impaired.

This bill hopes that through these assistive devices, the persons with disability will continue to be productive and contributing members of society, despite their disability, in these critical times.

The right of the deaf or hearing impaired individuals to have access to these assistive devices take paramount consideration, hence the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought for.

PETER B. MIGUEL

Representative, 2nd District South Cotabato

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

Section 1: *Short Title:* This Act shall be known as “The Free Hearing Aid Act of 2022.”

Section 2: *Mandate of Department of Social Welfare and Development:* The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall continue with its mandate of providing programs and services to vulnerable sectors of society, such as persons with disability. Accordingly, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated to give assistive devices, such as hearing aid for deaf or hearing-impaired indigents, for each DSWD Field Office every year.

Section 3: *Deaf or Hearing Impaired Indigent Individual:* For purposes of this Act, a “Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Indigent Individual” is a person who is deaf – people who have profound hearing loss, which implies very little or no hearing or those people with hearing loss ranging from mild to severe. People who could hardly communicate through spoken language and can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive devices. In addition from being deaf or hearing-impaired, these individuals have no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for family subsistence, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), based on specific criteria. All indigents identified by the DSWD under the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) for Poverty Reduction and other such acceptable methods, shall automatically be enrolled and covered under this Act.

Section 4: Rules and Regulations: The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall have the authority to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Section 5: Appropriations: The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into Law and thereafter.

Section 6: Repealing Clause: All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 7: Effectivity Clause: This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.