

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2941



Introduced by **HON. JOSE C. DE VENECIA** and **HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

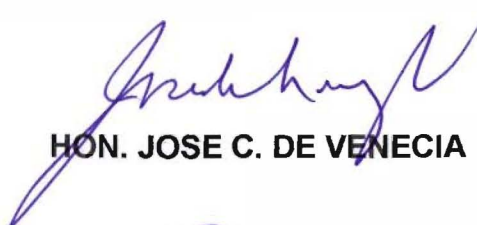
The importance of communication and information in nation-building is expressly recognized under Section 24, Article II of the Constitution which provides that, "The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building." To date, the most effective and far-reaching means of communication and information dissemination is through radio and television broadcasting stations.

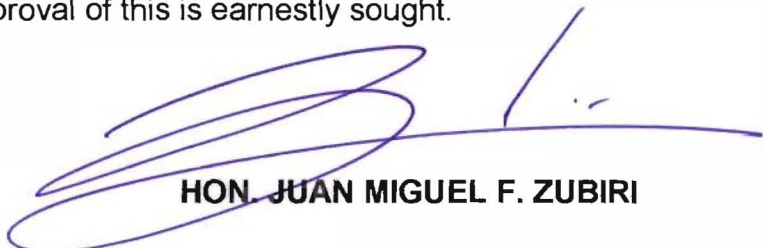
Radio and television broadcasting stations can play a vital role in the information dissemination program of the government regarding its plans and programs towards the upliftment of the social and economic condition of our people.

Likewise, radio and television broadcasting stations can help in public information and education program of the government whereby moral and good values will be taught to our children using this medium. Important public announcements of the government can also be broadcasted using these facilities.

However, considering the limited available resources of the government in pursuing its task in information dissemination, perhaps, we can tap the assistance of the private broadcasting stations in this goal by allowing the government to use some of their airtime for the information dissemination program of the government.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this is earnestly sought.


HON. JOSE C. DE VENECIA


HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI


RAUL DEL MAR


LORENZO TANAÑA III


ROGER G. MERCADO

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AN ACT

AMENDING ALL FRANCHISES GRANTED TO DIFFERENT RADIO AND/OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANDATING THEM TO ALLOCATE TIME FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “**Government Information Program Act of 2004**”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. It is further stated under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution that information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Towards this end, the State shall therefore adopt and institute measures to ensure that vital economic, social and political matters are disseminated to the various sectors of the society through radio and television broadcasts stations.

Section 3. **Amendment of all existing franchise laws.** - *A new section is hereby inserted to all franchise laws granted to different radio and/or television broadcasting stations operators/owners to read as follows:*

Section 3-A. **Mandate to All Operators/Owners of Radio and Television Broadcasting Stations.** - All operators/ owners of radio and television broadcasting stations are hereby mandated to allot or allocate at least sixty (60) minutes of their airtime, daily, for free, for the use of the government for its public information program.

Section 4. **Programs/ Materials and Manner for/of Airing.** – The programs or materials to be used for airing for the public information program of the government shall be provided to the different radio and/or television broadcasting stations by the Philippine information Agency (PIA), in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), or any such other government agency concerned.

The PIA, in coordination with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and in consultation with the owners/operators of radio/television broadcasting stations, shall determine the manner of allotment/allocation of the free airtime for the government.

Section 5. **Monitoring of Compliance by the National Telecommunications Commission.** – The NTC, in coordination with the government agency concerned, shall monitor the compliance of the radio and/or television operators/owners with the mandate stated herein to broadcast the programs provided by the PIA for the governments' public information campaign.

Section 6. **Fines and Penalties.** – The operators/ owners of radio and/or television broadcasting station who violates any provision provided under this Act shall be meted the following fines/penalties:

- a. First offense – Fine of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 250,000.00);

- b. Second offense – Fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 500,000.00)
- c. Third Offense – Fine of One Million Pesos (P 1,000,000.00) and revocation of the franchise

Section 7. **Separability Clause.** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 8. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,