

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2666



Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO VIOLENT PROGRAMMING ON
TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The creation of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) in 1985 under P.D. 1986 was an initial step in reviewing and censoring films or television programs to improve, upgrade and make viable the industry as a source of fueling the national economy. But it does not authorize the MTRCB to prescribe ratings for violence in television programming and rules for signals containing specifications for blocking violent programming in apparatuses with such technical capability. In 1995, R.A. 7925, also known as the Public Telecommunication Policy Act of the Philippines, was enacted into law but it also failed to give such authority to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for broadcast operations of public communications entities.

The Journal of the American Medical Association in many occasions since 1975 has alerted the medical community on the adverse effects of televised violence on child development such as the increase in the level of aggressive behavior among children. A report dated May 1993 of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation in the United States revealed that there was an irrefutable connection between the amount of violence in television programs viewed by children and increased aggression among them.

This bill, therefore, prescribes television violence rating codes for children and prohibits violent programming on television during certain hours. For those apparatuses capable of blocking signals, the bill authorizes the MTRCB and the NTC to jointly prescribe rules for transmission.

In view of the foregoing, we therefore urge our colleagues to ensure the immediate passage of this proposed bill into law.



DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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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 the "Children's Media Protection Act of 2013."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the state to protect the welfare of children by limiting their exposure to violent programming on television and cable systems.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

1) Cable Operator – any person or group of persons:

(a) who provides cable services over a cable system and directly or through one or more affiliates owns a significant interest in such cable system, or

(b) who otherwise controls or is responsible for, through any arrangement the management and operation of such a cable system;

2) Cable System – any facility consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designed to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community, but such term does not include -

(a) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of 1 or more television broadcast stations;

(b) a facility that serves only subscribers in 1 or more multiple unit dwellings under common ownership control or management, unless such facility or facilities uses any public right-of way;

(c) a facility of a common carrier, except to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers; or

(d) any facility of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility system.

3) Programming – includes advertisements but does not include newscasts, news interviews, and news documentaries.

4) Public telecommunications entity – any person, firm, partnership or corporation, government or private, engaged in the provision of telecommunications services to the public for compensation.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of Television Violence Rating Code.* – The Movie and Television and Classification Board (MTRCB) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall, jointly prescribe, in consultation with television broadcasters, cable operators, concerned non-government organizations for children, and interested individuals from the private sector, rules for rating the level of violence in television programming including rules for the transmission by television broadcast systems and cable systems of signals containing specifications for blocking violent programming.

SECTION 5. *Elimination of Violent Programming on Television During Certain Hours.* – The MTRCB and the NTC shall, within 30 days from the effectivity of this Act, pass rules and regulations prohibiting the broadcast on commercial television and public telecommunications entities, including the broadcast by cable operators from, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. inclusive, of programming that contains very violent scenes for children in accordance with the rating code established pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is invalid or unconstitutional the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree, or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,