

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
THIRD REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 6053



Introduced by **Hon. Arturo B. Robes**

AN ACT
RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS AND
EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS
ACT THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ZOE BROADCASTING, INC.,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7297 ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE ZOE BROADCASTING
NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION
BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7968

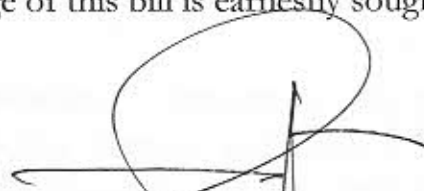
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to renew and expand the nature, scope and coverage of the franchise granted to Zoe Broadcasting Network, Inc. (ZBNI) under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7297 which was approved on March 26, 1992. R.A. No. 7297 granted a franchise to ZBNI to construct, install, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in the island of Luzon and for other purposes. The franchise term was for twenty-five (25) years. On 23 March 1995, R.A. No. 7297 was amended by R.A. No. 7968 expanding the nature and scope of the franchise of ZBNI to include "radio and television stations throughout the Philippines with the corresponding auxiliary, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations, and to install radio communication facilities for the grantee's private use in its broadcast services".

Since the start of ZBNI operations in the early 1990's until the present, ZBNI's television and radio broadcast stations as well as its auxiliary services and facilities have served as important media partners of the Philippine government and of the Filipino people through which the latter's rights to information and to freedom of expression are realized. ZBNI, by its flagship programs, has significantly helped in uplifting and inspiring good moral values to the Filipino people, thus, helping greatly in nation building. Relevant and significant issues of public concern are effectively delivered through ZBNI's media platforms. Even in the most far flung areas, the right of the public to information is fulfilled and ZBNI has continuously and consistently stayed as an advocate and implementer of, and has never strayed from, responsible and balanced programming. Freedom of expression includes the right not only to seek and impart information and ideas, but also the right to receive them in the latest technological advances and form.

In this measure, this representation intends to perpetuate the franchise granted to ZBNI for another period of twenty-five (25) years and to expand the nature and scope of the franchise to include the latest technological advances such as digital terrestrial television broadcasting, through microwave, satellite, or whatever means, or the use of any technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast, and other program and distribution services, and relay stations.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a vertical stroke.

ARTURO B. ROBES

Representative

Lone District, San Jose Del Monte City

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2 Quezon City, Metro Manila

3 **SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**

4 **THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

5 **HOUSE BILL NO. 6053**

6
7
8
9
10 Introduced by **Hon. Arturo B. Robes**

11
12 **AN ACT**

13 **RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS AND**
14 **EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS**
15 **ACT THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ZOE BROADCASTING, INC.,**
16 **AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
17 **7297 ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE ZOE BROADCASTING**
18 **NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,**
19 **OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION**
20 **BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES,**
21 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
22 **7968**

23
24
25 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
26 *assembled:*

27
28 **Section 1. Renewal of Franchise.** – Subject to the provisions of the
29 Constitution, the immediately succeeding Section and applicable laws, rules and
30 regulations, the franchise granted under Republic Act No. 7297 entitled "AN ACT
31 GRANTING THE ZOE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE
32 TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND
33 TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
34 PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", as amended by Republic Act No.
35 7968, to Zoe Broadcasting Network, Inc., hereunder referred to as the grantee, its
36 successors or assigns, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years from the
37 effectivity of this Act.
38

1 **Section 2.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7297, as amended by Republic Act
2 No. 7968, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 Section 1. Nature and Scope of Franchise. – Subject to the provisions of
5 the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is
6 hereby granted to the Zoe Broadcasting Network, Inc., its successors or
7 assigns, hereunder referred to as the grantee, a franchise to construct,
8 operate, and maintain, for commercial purposes and in the public
9 interest, television and radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines,
10 where frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or
11 television broadcasting, including digital terrestrial television system,
12 through microwave, satellite, or whatever means, or the use of any
13 technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding
14 technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast, and other
15 program and distribution services, and relay stations, and to install radio
16 communication facilities.

17
18 **Section 3. Adoption of Provisions Not Inconsistent with this Act.** All
19 other provisions of Republic Act No. 7297, as amended by Republic Act No. 7968,
20 which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall continue to be in full
21 force and effect.

22
23 **Section 4. Separability Clause.** – If any of the sections or provisions of this
24 Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

25
26 **Section 5. Repealability and Non-exclusivity Clauses.** – This franchise
27 shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines
28 when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant
29 of the privileges herein provided for.

30
31 **Section 6. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the
32 date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
33 Philippines.

34
35 Approved,