



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6790**

Introduced by Representative Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to renew the legislative franchise of Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. originally granted under Republic Act (RA) No. 9129, entitled "*An Act Granting the Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. a Franchise to Construct, Install, Establish, Operate, and Maintain Radio and Television Broadcasting Stations in the Ilocos and Cordillera Regions.*"

Pursuant to Section 6 of RA 9129, the original franchise of Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. has a term of twenty-five years from the date of effectivity on April 24, 2001 and is due to expire on June 15, 2026. For more than two decades, it has consistently upheld its mandate as a responsible media organization and has demonstrated its value as a medium of balanced and relevant programming that provides public awareness, education and civic engagement. Its radio and television platforms have served as vital instruments for disseminating information, broadcasting public service announcements and relaying government advisories. It has also emerged as an active partner in advancing community development, supporting educational initiatives, and promoting local culture and tourism.

The continued operation of Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. underscores the enduring role of mass media as a powerful instrument for truth, transparency, and public empowerment. Over the years, it has demonstrated its commitment to responsible journalism and community service, consistently aligning its programming with the public interest. Its radio and television platforms have not only served as reliable sources of information and public

service announcements, but have also fostered civic awareness and engagement across the Ilocos and Cordillera Regions.

Moreover, the company's broadcast facilities have become valuable training grounds for students and young professionals pursuing careers in media, communication, and public service. By providing hands-on experience and mentorship, Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. contributes meaningfully to the development of future leaders and practitioners in the field.

In light of its proven track record and continued relevance, this bill seeks to renew the legislative franchise of Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc. to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of its services and the sustained fulfillment of its mandate.

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



FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V



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AN ACT

RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SEA AND SKY BROADCASTING, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9129, ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING THE SEA AND SKY BROADCASTING, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ILOCOS AND CORDILLERA REGIONS”

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

SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope.* – Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted under Republic Act No. 9129 to the Sea and Sky Broadcasting, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Grantee,” its successors or assigns, to construct, install establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and television broadcasting stations in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions, where frequencies and channels are still available for radio and or television broadcasting, through microwave, satellite or whatever means

1 including the use of any new technologies in television and radio broadcasting
2 systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special
3 broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations, is
4 renewed for another twenty-five (25) years.

5 SEC. 2. ***Manner of Operation.*** – The existing and future stations or
6 facilities of the Grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner that
7 results only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of
8 existing stations or other stations that may be established by law, without in any
9 way diminishing its own privilege to use its assigned wavelengths or
10 frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should
11 maximize rendition of the Grantee's services and availability thereof.

12 SEC. 3. ***Prior Approval.*** – The Grantee shall secure from the National
13 Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses
14 for the construction and operation of its stations and facilities and shall not use
15 any frequency in the radio and television spectrum without authorization from
16 the NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the
17 grant of any such authority.

18 SEC. 4. ***Responsibility to the Public.*** – The Grantee shall provide
19 adequate public service time to enable the government, through its broadcasting
20 stations or facilities, to reach the population on important public issues; provide
21 at all times sound and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public
22 information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not

1 use its stations and facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent
2 language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false
3 information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest;
4 or to incite, encourage, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

5 **SEC. 5. *Right of Government.*** – The radio spectrum is a finite resource
6 that is part of the national patrimony and its use is a privilege conferred upon
7 the Grantee by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process. A
8 special right is reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war,
9 rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster, or disturbance of peace
10 and order to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the
11 grantee; temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the
12 interest of national security, public safety, and public welfare; or authorize the
13 temporary use and operation of the stations or facilities by any agency of the
14 government, upon due compensation to the Grantee.

15 **SEC. 6. *Term of Franchise.*** – This franchise shall be in effect for a
16 period of twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act, unless sooner
17 revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the
18 event the Grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

19 **SEC. 7. *Acceptance and Compliance.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
20 effectivity of this Act, the Grantee shall submit a written acceptance of this new
21 franchise to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on
22 Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Public Services of the Senate. Only upon the submission of the acceptance may
2 the Grantee exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Non-submission of
3 the written acceptance shall render the franchise void.

4 SEC. 8. *Self-Regulation and Undertaking.* – The Grantee shall not
5 impose any previous censorship on any speech, play, act or scene, or other
6 matter to be broadcast from its stations: *Provided*, That the Grantee, during any
7 broadcast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other
8 matter being broadcast that tends to propose and incite treason, rebellion or
9 sedition; or if the language or the theme is indecent or immoral: *Provided*,
10 *further*, That willful failure of the Grantee to do so shall constitute a valid cause
11 for the cancellation of this franchise.

12 SEC. 9. *Warranty in Favor of National and Local Governments.* –
13 The Grantee shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments
14 of the Philippines free from all claims, accounts, demands, or actions arising
15 from accidents or injuries to persons or property caused by the construction or
16 operation of the stations of the Grantee.

17 SEC. 10. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.*
18 – The Grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, or assign this
19 franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm,
20 company, corporation, or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any
21 other corporation or entity; nor the controlling interest of the Grantee be
22 transferred, whether in whole or in part, and whether simultaneously or

1 contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity
2 without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. In case of sale,
3 lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, or assignment of franchise or the rights or
4 privileges acquired thereunder, or of the merger or transfer of the controlling
5 interest of the Grantee, the Congress of the Philippines shall be notified within
6 sixty (60) days after the completion of the transaction. Failure to report the
7 change of ownership shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked. Any person
8 or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred or assigned, shall be subject
9 to the same conditions, terms, restrictions, and limitations of this Act.

10 SEC. 11. ***Dispersal of Ownership.*** – In accordance with the
11 constitutional provision to encourage public participation in public utilities, the
12 Grantee shall offer to Filipino citizens at least thirty per cent (30%), or a higher
13 percentage that may hereafter be provided by law, of its outstanding capital
14 stock in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from the
15 commencement of its operations: *Provided*, That in cases where public offer of
16 shares is not applicable, establishment of cooperatives and other methods of
17 encouraging public participation by citizens and corporations operating public
18 utilities must be implemented.

19 Noncompliance with this section shall render the franchise *ipso facto*
20 revoked.

21 SEC. 12. ***Reportorial Requirement.*** – The Grantee shall submit an
22 annual report to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on

1 Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
2 Public Services of the Senate, on its compliance with the terms and conditions
3 of the franchise and its operations on or before April 30 of every year during the
4 term of its franchise. The reportorial compliance certificate issued by Congress
5 shall be required before any application for a permit or certificate is accepted by
6 the NTC.

7 SEC. 13. ***Fine.*** – Failure of the Grantee to submit the required annual
8 report to Congress of the Philippines shall be subject to a fine of Five hundred
9 pesos (P500.00) per working day of noncompliance. The fine shall be collected
10 by the NTC from the delinquent franchise Grantee, separate from any
11 reportorial penalties that may be imposed by the NTC.

12 SEC. 14. ***Equality Clause.*** – Any advantage, favor, privilege,
13 exemption, or immunity which may hereafter be granted for radio and television
14 broadcasting shall become part of this franchise and shall be accorded
15 immediately and unconditionally to the Grantee: *Provided*, That the foregoing
16 shall neither apply nor affect the provisions of broadcasting franchises
17 concerning the territory covered by the franchise, the life span of the franchise,
18 or the type of service authorized by the franchise.

19 SEC. 15. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is
20 held invalid, the remaining provisions or parts not affected shall remain valid.

21 SEC. 16. ***Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause.*** – This franchise
22 shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress of the

1 Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as
2 an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

3 SEC. 17. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
4 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

5 Approved,