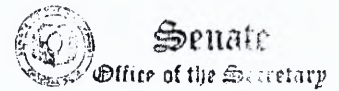


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 25 P 2 :01

SENATE
S. No. 850

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) was created by Presidential Decree No. 1986. The provisions of this presidential issuance, however, did not include authorization to prescribe ratings for violence in television programming and rules for signals containing specifications for blocking violent programming in apparatuses with such technical capability. Neither the Republic Act No. 7925, otherwise known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act, gives such authority to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for broadcast operations of public communication entities.

Since 1975, the Journal of the American Medical Association has been addressing the medical community about the adverse effects of violence in television on child development. The JAMA conducted studies on the matter, and their data showed a noticeable increase in the level of aggressive behaviour among children who are constantly exposed to televised violence. A similar report by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation in the United States, conducted in May of 1999 also revealed the irrefutable connection between the influence of televised violence on the statistics of youth aggression and violence. The impact of what a child sees on television to his overall psyche and personality cannot be denied. In the world we live in today, the influence of television on our children cannot be ignored.

Regulation is required, therefore, to assure a safe and healthy upbringing for our youth.

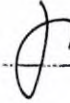
This Act prescribes television violence rating codes for children and prohibits violent programming on television during certain hours. For apparatus equipped with technical capability for blocking signals, the bill authorizes the MTRCB and the NTC to jointly prescribe rules for transmission.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**AN ACT
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TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Children's Media*
2 *Protection Act of 2022*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare
4 of children by limiting their exposure to violent programming on television and cable
5 systems.

6 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term –

7 (A) *Cable Operator* – Any person or group of persons who:

8 (1) Provides cable service over a cable system and directly or through one
9 or more affiliates owns a significant interest in such cable system; or

10 (2) Who otherwise controls or is responsible for, through any arrangement,
11 the management and operation of such a cable system.

12 (B) *Cable System* – means any faculty consisting of a set of closed transmission
13 paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment
14 that is designed to provide cable service which includes video programming
15 and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community. Such term
16 does not include:

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

1 (2) A facility that serves only subscribers in one (1) or more multiple unit
2 dwelling under common ownership, control or management, unless such
3 facility or facilities use any public right-of-way;

4 (3) A facility of a common carrier, except to the extent such facility is used
5 in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers; and

6 (4) Any facility or any electric utility used solely for operating its electric
7 utility system.

8 (C) *Programming* – Includes advertisements but does not include newscasts,
9 news interviews, and news documentation.

10 (D) *Public Telecommunication Entity* – means any person, firm, partnership or
11 corporation, government or private, engaged in the provision of
12 telecommunications services to the public for compensation.

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

21 *Sec. 5. Elimination of Violent Programming on Television during Certain Hours.*
22 – The MTRCB and NTC shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act,
23 pass rules and regulations prohibiting the broadcast on commercial television and
24 public telecommunications entities, including the broadcast by cable operators, from
25 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. inclusive of programming that contains very violent scenes
26 for children in accordance with the rating code established pursuant to the preceding
27 paragraph.

28 *Sec. 6. Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
30 remain valid and subsisting.

31 *Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
32 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or

1 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
2 accordingly.

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

Approved,