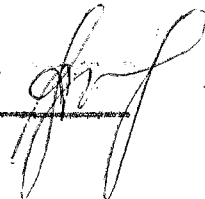


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )

04 JUN 30 P1:02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



S.B. No. 102

Introduced by **SENATOR LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 1986 which creates the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) does not authorize it 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 does Republic Act No. 7925, also known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, give such authority to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for broadcast operations of public communications entities.

On several occasions since 1975, the Journal of the American Medical Association has alerted the medical community to the adverse effects of televised violence on child development including an increase in the level of aggressive behavior among children who view it. A report dated May 1993 of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation in the United States reveals that there is an irrefutable connection between the amount of violence depicted in the television program watched by children and increased aggression among them.

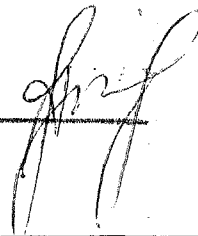
This bill prescribes television violence rating codes for children and prohibits violent, lewd, or obscene programming on televisions during certain hours. For those apparatuses equipped with technical capability for blocking signals, the bill authorizes the MTRCB and the NTC to jointly prescribe rules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

In view hereof, the early passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )

'04 JUN 30 P 1:02

SENATE RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 102

Introduced by **SENATOR LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA**

AN ACT  
LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO VIOLENT, LEWD OR OBSCENE  
PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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."

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare of children by limiting their exposure to violent, lewd or obscene programming on television and cable systems.

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act:

- (A) Cable Operator means any person or group of persons who (a) provides cable service 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;
- (B) Cable System means 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 one (1) or more television broadcast stations; (b) a facility that serves only subscribers in one (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.

- (C) Programming - includes advertisements but does not include newscasts, news interviews and news documentaries.
- (D) Public Telecommunications Entity means 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, lewd or obscene programming.

**Section 5. Elimination of Violent and Immoral Programming on Television During Certain Hours.** - The MTRCB and the NTC shall within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting the broadcast on commercial television and public telecommunication entities including the broadcast by cable operators from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. inclusive of programming that contains very violent, lewd or obscene 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,*