

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 AUG -3 AM '05

SENATE
S. No. 2300

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill is intended to require every cable television ("CATV") company providing CATV reception service to subscribers in the Country to disclose the cost of each component of a bundled package of CATV programming services including, but not limited to, the amount of any discount attributable to a subscriber's purchase of a bundled package as compared to the cost of each component if purchased separately from the CATV company.

Although there is no law which fully regulates the rates charged by CATV companies, the purpose of this bill is to require disclosure by CATV companies of the relative cost of components of a bundled package of CATV programming services purchased by subscribers so that subscribers understand how the cost of the bundled package is calculated.

Since CATV subscribers are required to choose a bundled package of CATV programming services without the option of choosing separate channels that they want to subscribe to, subscribers should be entitled to information which gives the comparative cost of each component of the bundled package.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

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1 AN ACT
2 REQUIRING PROPER BILL DETAIL DISCLOSURE FROM CABLE TELEVISION
3 COMPANIES
4

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

5 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Cable Television Disclosure Act*"

6 SECTION 2. *Disclosure Requirement.* - Every cable television company which provides
7 cable television reception service to subscribers in the Country shall identify and disclose in clear
8 and conspicuous language on each monthly or periodic bill for cable television service sent to a
9 subscriber, the cost of each component of the subscriber's package of cable television
10 programming services including, but not limited to, an estimate of the amount of discount, if any,
11 attributable to the subscriber's purchase of a bundled package of programming services as
12 compared to the cost of each component if purchased separately by the subscriber from the cable
13 television company.

14 SECTION 3. *Format and Process* - The disclosure of information required by this Act
15 shall be provided in accordance with a format and process approved by the National
16 Telecommunications Commission.

17 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* - Any director, officer or agent of a corporation who shall
18 authorize, order or perform any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or in part a violation
19 of this Act, shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than One hundred thousand
20 pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) or imprisonment of
21 not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years, or both upon the discretion of the
22 court.

23
24 In case the violation is committed by, or in the interest of a juridical person duly licensed

25 to engage in business in the Philippines, such license to engage in business shall also be
26 immediately revoked.

27 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
29 valid and subsisting.

30 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
31 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
32 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

33 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
34 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.