



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 925

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BY REPRESENTATIVES TIENG, VELARDE AND ATIENZA

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AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF  
TELEVISION STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION  
PROGRAMS TO BROADCAST OR PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS  
WITH CLOSED CAPTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           SECTION 1. *Requirement.* – All franchise holders or operators of  
2 television stations and producers of television programs are required to  
3 broadcast or present their programs with closed captions to benefit persons  
4 with hearing disabilities.

5           SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

6           (a) *Closed caption* shall mean a method of subtitling television  
7 programs by coding statements as vertical interval data signal that are decoded  
8 at the receiver and superimposed at the bottom of the television screen; and

9           (b) *Economically burdensome* shall mean that which result in a  
10 significant difficulty or expense to be determined by the following factors:

- 11           (1) The nature and cost of the closed captions for the programming;  
12           (2) The impact on the operation of the provider or producer;  
13           (3) The financial resources of the provider or producer; and

1 (4) The type of operations of the provider or producer.

2 SEC. 3. *Exempt Programming.* – The following shall be exempt from  
3 closed captioning:

4 (a) Public service announcements that are shorter than ten (10)  
5 minutes;

6 (b) Programs shown in the early morning hours from 1:00 a.m. to  
7 6:00 a.m.;

8 (c) Programs that are primarily textual in nature; and

9 (d) When compliance would be economically burdensome.

10 SEC. 4. *Penalties.* – Any franchise holder or operator of television  
11 stations and producer of television programs who shall violate the provisions  
12 of this Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos  
13 (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or  
14 by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year,  
15 or both, at the discretion of the court.

16 In case the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, or  
17 any other juridical person, the president, manager, administrator, or  
18 person-in-charge of the management of the business shall be liable therefor.  
19 In addition, the license or permit to operate its business shall be cancelled.

20 SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National  
21 Telecommunications Commission and the Movie and Television Review and  
22 Classification Board, in consultation with other concerned agencies and  
23 entities, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
24 implementation of this Act.

25 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules or  
26 regulations, other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are  
27 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

1           SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
2           invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain and  
3           continue to be in full force and effect.

4           SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
5           its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

          Approved,

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