

Fifteenth Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

S.B. No. 28

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Statistics showed that there is an estimated 4.5 million deaf Filipinos, most of them, have no access to programs that will help them realize their full potentials. One of the major accessibility concerns of deaf or hard of hearing people is their access to public information which will hamper their active participation on matters of public concerns.

Considering the importance of television in the daily lives of every individual, this bill proposes to require all franchise holders or operators of television networks or stations, producers of television news programs to have these news programs broadcast with closed caption and providing penalties for violation thereof.

The passage of this bill will address the constitutional mandate for the state to recognize the basic right of the people to information on matters of public concern.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION NETWORKS OR
STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS TO HAVE
THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS BROADCAST WITH CLOSED-CAPTION AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Closed-captioning of New Programs.* - All owners or operators of television networks or stations and producers of television programs are required to have their newscast or news programs, which are national and regional in scope with closed-caption in order to benefit persons with hearing disabilities: Provided, however, that the words of the close-captioning will be in the language spoken in the same program.

Section 2. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- (1) "Closed-caption" shall refer to the method of subtitling television programs by coding statements as vertical interval data signal that are decoded at the receiver and superimposed at the bottom of the television screen.
- (2) "Newscast" or "News Programs" shall refer only to report of happenings of recent occurrence of a varied character, such as political, social, moral, religious and other subjects intended for the information of the general public. It shall also refer to straight news reporting as distinguished from news analyses or editorials, commentaries and opinions.

Section 3. *Penalties.* - Any owner or operator of television networks or stations and any producer of television news programs who shall violate the provision of Section 1 shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100, 000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, or any other judicial person, the president, manager, administrator or the person-in-charge of the management of the business shall be liable therefore. In addition, the license or permit to operate the business shall be cancelled.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The National Telecommunication Commission and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, in consultation with concerned agencies and entities, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Separability Cause.* - If any provision of this Act is hereby declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

Approved,