



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6758

Introduced by **REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**



EXPLANATORY NOTE

The operation of radio, television, and cable antenna television stations plays an important role and fundamental function in the development and growth of our country. Through the years, a huge number of Filipinos relied and continue to rely on broadcast media as a source of credible, reliable, and timely information especially in times of crisis—be it a furious typhoon, earthquake, volcano surge, or in the present crisis, a worldwide pandemic. The uninterrupted operation of established and reputable broadcast media, even while their application for franchise is pending with Congress, is much desired as it actualizes the constitutional recognition of the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.

This bill seeks to amend provisions of laws pertaining to powers and functions of the National Telecommunications Commission, and further empowers it to issue provisional authority for the continued operation of broadcast media while awaiting renewal of their congressional franchise. In doing so, the gap in the law will be addressed with exactitude and certainty regarding franchise renewals and in the issuance of provisional authority to operate for the broadcast media, and there would be assurance of continuous provision of vital information to the Filipinos vis-à-vis bridging their concerns to governmental authorities.

As public interest is at stake, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

,REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR
3rd District, Pampanga



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HOUSE BILL NO. **6758**

Introduced by **REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ISSUE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO OWNERS AND/OR OPERATORS OF RADIO, TELEVISION, AND/OR CABLE ANTENNA TELEVISION SYSTEM, NETWORK AND/OR STATIONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED OPERATIONS PENDING THE RENEWAL OF THEIR CONGRESSIONAL FRANCHISE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known and cited as the *“Provisional Broadcast Media Franchise Act of 2020.”*

Section 2. Statement of policy. – It is the policy of the State to give ample time and opportunity to grantees of radio, television, and cable antenna television franchise to renew their respective franchises before Congress and for the latter to judiciously deliberate on said renewal of franchises, recognizing that broadcast media plays a vital role the dissemination of news and information to the people as part of nation-building.

Section 3. The National Telecommunications Commission. – The National Telecommunications Commission, or its successor who has the right and authority to assign to qualified parties frequencies, channels or other means of identifying broadcasting systems, is hereby authorized and mandated to issue a provisional authority for the continued operations of the owner and/or operator of radio, television, and/or cable antenna television stations whose franchises expired pending their application for its renewal with Congress: *Provided*, That the said provisional authority will remain effective until and unless such application for renewal be approved, disapproved, or when the term of current Congress expires without the said franchise being renewed: *Provide, furthermore*, That the foregoing provisions shall apply to all pending applications for renewal of congressional franchises prior to the passage of this Act.

Section 4. Reference to Offices. – All references to the Secretary of Commerce and Communication in Republic Act Number 3846 and the Secretary of Public Works and Communications in Presidential Decree Number 576-A shall be understood to mean as the National Telecommunications Commission or its successor who has the right and authority to assign to qualified parties frequencies, channels or other means of identifying broadcasting systems.

Section 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby and the application of such parts or provisions to other persons or circumstances shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 1 and 2 of Republic Act Number 3846, Section 6 of Presidential Decree Number 576-A, Section 15 of Executive Order Number 546, Series of 1979, and Section 4 of Executive Order Number 205, Series of 1987 are hereby amended accordingly. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,