

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3694



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The intention of this proposed measure is to prescribe television rating codes for children and to prohibit violent and sexually themed non-educational programming on television during certain hours. In the case of those apparatuses equipped with technical capability for blocking signals, the bill authorizes MTRCB and NTC to jointly prescribe the rules of transmission.

As studies of the American Medical Association show, there are adverse effects of televised violence on child development or a marked increase in the level of aggressive behaviour among children who view it. This was based on the May 1999 Report of the Henry Frank Guggenheim Foundation in the US where it found that there is an irrefutable connection between the amount violence depicted in the television programs watched by children and increased aggression among them.

Inasmuch as P.D. 1986 that created the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board does not authorize the same to prescribe ratings for violence and non-educational sexual themes in TV programming and rules for signals containing specifications for blocking violent and sexually themed non-educational programming in apparatuses with such technical capability and neither does R.A. 7925 (also known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines) give such authority to the NTC for broadcast operations of public communications entities, this proposed measure intends to address this limitation.

Passage of this bill is thus most earnestly sought.


WINNIE CASTELO

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

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Children's Media Protection Act."

SEC. 2. It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare of children by limiting their exposure to violent and sexually-themed non-educational programming on television and cable systems.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- a. Cable Operator – refers to any person or group of persons who (1) provides cable service over a cable system and directly or through one or more affiliates owns a significant interest in such cable system, or (2) who otherwise controls or is responsible for, through any arrangement, the management and operation of such a cable system;
- b. Cable System – refers to 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 (1) a facility that serves only to transmit the television signals of one (1) or more television broadcast stations; (2) a facility that serves only subscribers in one (1) or more multiple unit dwelling under common ownership, control or management, unless such facility or facilities use any public right-of-way; (3) a facility of a common carrier, except to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers; or (4) 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 documentation.
- d. Public telecommunication entity – refers to any person, firm, partnership or corporation, government or private, engaged in the provision of telecommunications services to the public for compensation.

SEC. 4. The MTRCB and the 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 and non-educational sexual themes in television programming, including rules for

rating the level of violence and non-educational sexual themes in television programming, including rules for the transmission by television broadcast systems and cable systems of signals containing specifications for blocking violent and sexually-themed non-educational programming.

SEC. 5. The MTRCB and the NTC shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, pass rules and regulations prohibiting the broadcast on commercial television and public telecommunications entities, including the broadcast by cable operators, from 6:00 am to 10:00pm inclusive of programming that contains violent and obscene scenes for children in accordance with the rating code established pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,