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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1992

AN ACT To authorize appropriations for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Telecommunications Authorization Act of 1992".[1]

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TITLE II—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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[Sections 201 to 209 contained amendments to the Communications Act of 1934.]

SEC. 211. REVIEW OF LICENSE TRANSFER.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR HEARING.—The Federal Communications Commission shall not approve any assignment or transfer of control of a license held by any corporation identified in subsection (b) without first holding a full hearing on the record, with notice and opportunity for comment.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) applies to any corporation holding a television broadcast license, the transfer of which was approved by the Federal Communications Commission on November 14, 1985, and which is a corporation owned or controlled directly or indirectly by a corporation organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Federal Communications Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate concerning the proposed transfer 30 days prior to authorizing any such transfer. The report required by this subsection shall include a review of the consistency of such transfer with the Commission's minority ownership policies.

(d) WAIVER.—The requirements of subsections (a) and (c) shall not apply in any case in which the Native Regional corporation identified in subsection (b) requests in writing that this section be waived by the Federal Communications Commission.

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[1] Public Law 102–538, 106 Stat. 3533, approved Oct. 27, 1992.

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[Section 212 contained amendments to section 6 of the Federal Communications Commission Authorization Act of 1988 which is printed elsewhere in this compilation.]

SEC. 213. [47 U.S.C. 201 note] TELEPHONE RATES FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED ABROAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Communications Commission shall make efforts to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel in the following countries: Germany, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain, Italy, Philippines, Panama, Spain, Turkey, Iceland, the Netherlands, Greece, Cuba, Belgium, Portugal, Bermuda, Diego Garcia, Egypt, and Honduras.

(b) FACTORS TO CONSIDER.—In making the efforts described in subsection (a), the Federal Communications Commission, in coordination with the Department of Defense, Department of State, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration shall consider the cost to military personnel and their families of placing telephone calls by—

(1) evaluating and analyzing the costs to Armed Forces personnel of such telephone calls to and from American military bases abroad;

(2) evaluate methods of reducing the rates imposed on such calls;

(3) determine the extent to which it is feasible for the Federal Communications Commission to encourage the carriers to adopt flexible billing procedures and policies for members of the Armed Forces and their families for telephone calls to and from the countries listed in subsection (a); and

(4) advise executive branch agencies of methods for the United States to persuade foreign governments to reduce the surcharges that are often placed on such telephone calls.

SEC. 214. [47 U.S.C. 303 note] AM RADIO IMPROVEMENT STANDARD.

The Federal Communications Commission shall—

(1) within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, initiate a rulemaking to adopt a single AM radio stereophonic transmitting equipment standard that specifies the composition of the transmitted stereophonic signal; and

(2) within one year after such date of enactment, adopt such standard.

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