

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 659

To authorize the Board for International Broadcasting to support a “Radio Free Asia”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25 (legislative day, MARCH 3), 1993

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. PELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DODD, Mr. SIMON, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INOUE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KRUEGER, Mr. D’AMATO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To authorize the Board for International Broadcasting to support a “Radio Free Asia”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Radio Free Asia Act
5 of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) it is the policy of the United States to pro-
2 mote the right of all people, enshrined in the Univer-
3 sal Declaration of Human Rights, to “seek, receive
4 and impart information and ideas through any
5 media and regardless of frontiers”;

6 (2) pursuant to this policy, the United States
7 has for decades actively supported the dissemination
8 of accurate information and the promotion of demo-
9 cratic ideals among the peoples of nations through-
10 out the world;

11 (3) prominent in the implementation of this pol-
12 icy has been United States support for the Radio
13 Free Europe, Radio Liberty, and Radio Marti, which
14 have broadcast accurate and timely information to
15 the oppressed people of Eastern Europe, the former
16 Soviet Union, and Cuba, respectively, about events
17 in those countries;

18 (4) the introduction of similar radio broadcast-
19 ing to the People’s Republic of China, a country
20 where all media remain under strict government con-
21 trol, would sharply increase the dissemination among
22 China’s citizens of accurate information and ideas
23 relating to developments within China itself;

24 (5) the establishment of similar broadcasting to
25 the other totalitarian states of Asia would also in-

1 crease the dissemination of news and information to
2 the people of those countries; and

3 (6) such broadcasting to the totalitarian nations
4 of Asia, conducted in accordance with the highest
5 professional standards, would serve the goals of
6 United States foreign policy by promoting freedom
7 in those nations and would bring closer the day
8 when all the world's major powers are cooperating
9 democracies.

10 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR RADIO BROADCASTING TO ASIA.**

11 The Board for International Broadcasting Act of
12 1973 (22 U.S.C. 2871 et seq.) is amended by adding at
13 the end thereof the following new section:

14 “RADIO BROADCASTING TO ASIA

15 “SEC. 15. (a) The Board for International Broad-
16 casting is authorized to designate one organization con-
17 stituted on the model of RFE/RL, Incorporated, as eligible
18 to receive funds under this Act for purposes of carrying
19 out radio broadcasting to the People's Republic of China,
20 Burma, and Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, Tibet, and
21 Vietnam. Such broadcasts shall be designated 'Radio Free
22 Asia'.

23 “(b) In implementing subsection (a), the Board for
24 International Broadcasting shall consider the rec-
25 ommendations of the Commission on Broadcasting to the
26 People's Republic of China established by section 243 of

1 the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years
2 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102–138; 105 Stat. 705).

3 “(c)(1) The authorities, responsibilities, require-
4 ments, and limitations provided in this Act for the Board,
5 the Comptroller General of the United States, the Sec-
6 retary of State, and the Board of Directors, of the RFE/
7 RL, Incorporated, with respect to RFE/RL, Incorporated,
8 in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, shall
9 apply with respect to an organization designated under
10 subsection (a) and the broadcasts by that organization in
11 Asia.

12 “(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the require-
13 ments of section 10 and the authority provided in section
14 12.”.

15 **SEC. 4. BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING.**

16 (a) INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.—Section 3(b) of such
17 Act (22 U.S.C. 2872(b)) is amended in paragraph (1)—

18 (1) by striking out “ten members, one of whom
19 shall be an ex officio member” and inserting in lieu
20 thereof “fourteen, two of whom shall be ex officio
21 members”;

22 (2) by striking out “nine” in the second sen-
23 tence and inserting in lieu thereof “twelve”;

24 (3) by striking out “five” in the third sentence
25 and inserting in lieu thereof “seven”; and

1 (4) by striking out the fourth sentence and in-
2 serting in lieu thereof the following: “The chief oper-
3 ating executive of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the
4 chief operating executive of a similar organization
5 designated under section 15 shall each be ex officio
6 members of the Board and may participate in the
7 activities of the Board, but may not vote in the de-
8 terminations of the Board.”.

9 (b) TERMS OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Para-
10 graph (3) of such section 3(b) is amended to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs
13 (B) and (C), the term of office of each member of
14 the Board appointed by the President shall be three
15 years.

16 “(B) The terms of office of the individuals ini-
17 tially appointed as the four additional voting mem-
18 bers of the Board who are provided for by the Board
19 for International Broadcasting Authorization Act,
20 Fiscal Years 1982 and 1983, shall be one, two, or
21 three years (as designated by the President at the
22 time of their appointment) so that the terms of one-
23 third of the voting members of the Board expire
24 each year.

1 “(C) Of the members initially appointed as the
2 three additional voting members of the Board pro-
3 vided for by the amendments made by section 4(a)
4 of the Radio Free Asia Act of 1993, one member
5 shall be appointed for an initial term of one year,
6 one member shall be appointed for an initial term of
7 two years, and one member shall be appointed for an
8 initial term of three years.

9 “(D) The President shall appoint, by and with
10 the advice and consent of the Senate, members to fill
11 vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of a term,
12 in which case the members so appointed shall serve
13 for the remainder of such term.

14 “(E) Any member whose term has expired may
15 serve until his or her successor has been appointed
16 and qualified.”.

17 (c) TERMS OF EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—Paragraph
18 (4) of such section 3(b) is amended—

19 (1) by striking out “The ex officio member”
20 and inserting in lieu thereof “Each ex officio mem-
21 ber”; and

22 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
23 following: “, or as chief operative executive of a simi-
24 lar organization designated under section 15, as the
25 case may be”.

1 **SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 Section 2 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking out “as an
4 independent broadcast media” and inserting in lieu
5 thereof “and the establishment of an organization
6 similar to RFE/RL, Incorporated, for conducting
7 radio broadcasting to the totalitarian nations of
8 Asia, as independent broadcast media”; and

9 (2) by striking out paragraph (5) and inserting in
10 lieu thereof the following:

11 “(5) that it is desirable to establish a Board for
12 International Broadcasting in order—

13 “(A) to provide an effective instrumentality
14 for the continuation of assistance to RFE/RL,
15 Incorporated, and for the furnishing of assist-
16 ance to an organization similar to RFE/RL, In-
17 corporated, that conducts radio broadcasting to
18 the totalitarian nations of Asia; and

19 “(B) to encourage a constructive dialog
20 with the peoples of the former Union of Soviet
21 Socialist Republics, Eastern Europe, Afghani-
22 stan (until the government in Kabul is replaced
23 by a government achieved through a free act of
24 self-determination), the People’s Republic of
25 China, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea,
26 Tibet, and Vietnam.”.

