

ditions as determined by the Chief Executive Officer, which may broadcast and provide news and information to audiences wherever the agency may broadcast, for activities that the Chief Executive Officer determines are consistent with the purposes of this chapter, including the terms and conditions of subsections (g)(5), (h), (i), and (j) of section 6207 of this title, except that the Agency may select any name for such a consolidated grantee.

(2) Special rule

No State or political subdivision of a State may establish, enforce, or continue in effect any provision of law or legal requirement that is different from, or is in conflict with, any requirement or authority applicable under this chapter relating to the consolidation, incorporation, structure, or dissolution of any grantee under this chapter.

(b) Mission

The consolidated grantee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) counter state-sponsored propaganda which undermines the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States and its allies;

(2) provide uncensored local and regional news and analysis to people in societies where a robust, indigenous, independent, and free media does not exist;

(3) help countries improve their indigenous capacity to enhance media professionalism and independence, and develop partnerships with local media outlets, as appropriate; and

(4) promote unrestricted access to uncensored sources of information, especially via the internet, and use all effective and efficient mediums of communication to reach target audiences.

(c) Federal status

Nothing in this chapter or any other Act, or any action taken pursuant to this chapter or any other Act, may be construed to make such a consolidated grantee described in subsection (a) or RFE/RL, Inc., Radio Free Asia, or the Middle East Broadcasting Networks or any other grantee or entity provided funding by the agency a Federal agency or instrumentality. Employees or staff of such grantees or entities may not be Federal employees. For purposes of this section and this chapter, the term “grant” includes agreements under section 6305 of title 31, and the term “grantee” includes recipients of such agreements.

(d) Leadership of grantee organizations

Officers and directors of RFE/RL Inc., Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks or any organization that is established through the consolidation of such entities, or authorized under this chapter, shall serve at the pleasure of and may be named by the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

(e) Maintenance of the existing individual grantee brands

RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated should remain brand names under which news and related programming and content may

be disseminated by the consolidated grantee. Additional brands may be created as necessary. (Pub. L. 103-236, title III, § 310, as added Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1288(7), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2553.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a), (c), and (d), was in the original a reference to this Act, and was translated as referring to this title, meaning title III of Pub. L. 103-236, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 432, known as the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, which is classified principally to this chapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6201 of this title and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6209, Pub. L. 103-236, title III, § 310, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 442, related to transition of transfer of functions from Board for International Broadcasting to United States Information Agency, Board, or Bureau, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. A, title XIII, §§ 1301, 1323(l)(2), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-776, 2681-780, effective Oct. 1, 1999.

§ 6209a. Inspector General authorities

(a) In general

The Inspector General of the Department of State and the Foreign Service shall exercise the same authorities with respect to the Broadcasting Board of Governors as the Inspector General exercises under the Inspector General Act of 1978 [5 U.S.C. App.] and section 3929 of this title with respect to the Department of State.

(b) Respect for journalistic integrity of broadcasters

The Inspector General of the Department of State and the Foreign Service shall respect the journalistic integrity of all the broadcasters covered by this chapter and may not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives reflected in the content of broadcasts.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, § 310A, as added Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1288(7), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2554.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, and was translated as reading “this title”, meaning title III of Pub. L. 103-236, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 432, known as the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, which is classified principally to this chapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6201 of this title and Tables.

§ 6209b. Role of the Secretary of State in foreign policy guidance

To assist the Board in carrying out its functions, the Chief Executive Officer shall regularly consult with and seek from the Secretary of State guidance on foreign policy issues.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, § 310B, as added Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1288(7), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2554.)