

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.)

§ 6210. Preservation of American jobs

It is the sense of the Congress that the Director of the United States Information Agency and the Chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting should, in developing the plan for consolidation and reorganization of overseas international broadcasting services, limit, to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the purposes of the consolidation, elimination of any United States-based positions and should affirmatively seek to transfer as many positions as possible to the United States.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, §311, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 444.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

United States Information Agency (other than Broadcasting Board of Governors and International Broadcasting Bureau) abolished and functions transferred to Secretary of State, see sections 6531 and 6532 of this title.

§ 6211. The continuing mission of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty broadcasts

It is the sense of Congress that Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty should continue to broadcast to the peoples of Central Europe, Eurasia, and the Persian Gulf until such time as—

- (1) a particular nation has clearly demonstrated the successful establishment and consolidation of democratic rule; and
- (2) its domestic media which provide balanced, accurate, and comprehensive news and information, is firmly established and widely accessible to the national audience, thus making redundant broadcasts by Radio Free Europe or Radio Liberty.

At such time as a particular nation meets both of these conditions, RFE/RL should phase out broadcasting to that nation.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, §312, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 444; Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title V, §503], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-451.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Pub. L. 106-113 amended section catchline and text generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which set forth sense of Congress that funding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty be privatized not later than Dec. 31, 1999, directed President to submit analysis and recommendation for achieving this objective with his annual budget submission, and directed Board for International Broadcasting to submit to appropriate congressional committees not later than 120 days after Apr. 30, 1994, report on steps being taken to transfer RFE/RL Research Institute, and periodic progress reports until such transfer would be achieved.

PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS: FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

Pub. L. 113-96, §1, Apr. 3, 2014, 128 Stat. 1098, provided that:

“(a) Congress finds and declares the following:

“(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people’s access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory;

“(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information, which is the foundation for democratic governance;

“(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media;

“(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine;

“(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

“(b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

“(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

“(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

“(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

“(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

“(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

“(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

“(c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

“(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

“(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences’ understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

“(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

“(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

“(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

“(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

“(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.