

§ 6202. Standards and principles**(a) Broadcasting standards**

United States international broadcasting shall—

- (1) be consistent with the broad foreign policy objectives of the United States;
- (2) be consistent with the international telecommunications policies and treaty obligations of the United States;
- (3) not duplicate the activities of private United States broadcasters;
- (4) not duplicate the activities of government supported broadcasting entities of other democratic nations;
- (5) be conducted in accordance with the highest professional standards of broadcast journalism;
- (6) be based on reliable information about its potential audience;
- (7) be designed so as to effectively reach a significant audience; and
- (8) promote respect for human rights, including freedom of religion.

(b) Broadcasting principles

United States international broadcasting shall include—

- (1) news which is consistently reliable and authoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive;
- (2) a balanced and comprehensive projection of United States thought and institutions, reflecting the diversity of United States culture and society;
- (3) clear and effective presentation of the policies of the United States Government and responsible discussion and opinion on those policies, including editorials, broadcast by the Voice of America, which present the views of the United States Government;
- (4) the capability to provide a surge capacity to support United States foreign policy objectives during crises abroad;
- (5) programming to meet needs which remain unserved by the totality of media voices available to the people of certain nations;
- (6) information about developments in each significant region of the world;
- (7) a variety of opinions and voices from within particular nations and regions prevented by censorship or repression from speaking to their fellow countrymen;
- (8) reliable research capacity to meet the criteria under this section;
- (9) adequate transmitter and relay capacity to support the activities described in this section; and
- (10) training and technical support for independent indigenous media through government agencies or private United States entities.

(c) Voice of America broadcasts

The long-range interests of the United States are served by communicating directly with the peoples of the world by radio. To be effective, the Voice of America must win the attention and respect of listeners. These principles will therefore govern Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts:

- (1) VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news

will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

(2) VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

(3) VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

(Pub. L. 103–236, title III, § 303, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 433; Pub. L. 103–415, § 1(p), Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4301; Pub. L. 105–277, div. G, subdiv. A, title XIII, § 1323(d), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–778; Pub. L. 105–292, title V, § 502, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2811; Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title XII, § 1299Q(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4021.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title XII, § 1299Q(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4021, which directed amendment of this section and was not executed, was itself amended by Pub. L. 116–260, div. O, title XIII, § 1301, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2158, to make it effective 90 days after Jan. 1, 2021. However, the amendment by Pub. L. 116–260 could not be executed because it was enacted before the provision from Pub. L. 116–283 that it amended.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–283, § 1299Q(b)(1), which directed insertion of “, including editorial independence” in subsec. (a) “before the semicolon at the end”, was not executed because subsec. (a) contains 6 pars. that have a semicolon at the end and the probable intent of Congress could not be determined.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116–283, § 1299Q(b)(2), which directed amendment of subsec. (b) by inserting “, including editorial independence,” after “programming”, was not executed because the word “programming” did not appear and the word “programming” at the beginning of par. (5) could not be clearly identified as the intended target.

1998—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 105–292 added par. (8).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 105–277, § 1323(d)(1), which directed amendment of par. (3) by inserting “, including editorials, broadcast by the Voice of America, which present the views of the United States Government” after “policies”, was executed by making insertion after “policies” the second time it appears to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (b)(4) to (10). Pub. L. 105–277, § 1323(d)(2), (3), added par. (4) and redesignated former pars. (4) to (9) as (5) to (10), respectively.

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103–415 added subsec. (c).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105–277 effective Oct. 1, 1999, see section 1301 of Pub. L. 105–277, set out as an Effective Date note under section 6531 of this title.

BROADCASTING INFORMATION ON STATES

Pub. L. 105–277, div. G, subdiv. B, title XXIV, § 2420, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–835, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Voice of America shall devote programming each day to broadcasting information on the individual States of the United States. The broadcasts shall include—

“(1) information on the products, tourism, and cultural and educational facilities of each State;

“(2) information on the potential for trade with each State; and

“(3) discussions with State officials with respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], the Broadcasting Board of Governors of the United States Information Agency shall submit a report to Congress detailing the actions that have been taken to carry out subsection (a).

“(c) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘State’ means any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any commonwealth or territory of the United States.”

§ 6203. Establishment of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media

(a) Continued existence within Executive branch

The United States Agency for Global Media shall continue to exist within the Executive branch of Government as an entity described in section 104 of title 5.

(b) Chief Executive Officer

(1) In general

The head of the United States Agency for Global Media shall be a Chief Executive Officer, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, until such time as a Chief Executive Officer is appointed and has qualified, the current or acting Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Board may continue to serve and exercise the authorities and powers under this chapter.

(2) Term

The first Chief Executive Officer appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall serve for an initial term of three years.

(3) Compensation

A Chief Executive Officer appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be compensated at the annual rate of basic pay for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5.

(c) Termination of Director of International Broadcasting Bureau

Effective on December 23, 2016, the position of the Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau shall be terminated, and all of the responsibilities, offices, authorities, and immunities of the Director or the Agency under this chapter or any other Act or authority before such date shall be transferred or available to, assumed by, or overseen by the Chief Executive Officer, as head of the Agency.

(d) Immunity from civil liability

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all limitations on liability that apply to the Chief Executive Officer shall also apply to members of the boards of directors of RFE/RL, Inc., Radio Free Asia, the Open Technology Fund, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, or any organization that consolidates such entities when such members are acting in their official capacities.

(Pub. L. 103-236, title III, §304, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 434; Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. A, title XIII, §§1322, 1323(b), (c), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-777, 2681-778; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B,

§1000(a)(7) [div. A, title V, §§502, 504], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-451; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, §1288(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2548; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XII, §§1299P(c)(1), 1299Q(e)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4020, 4024.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b)(1) and (c), 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.

December 23, 2016, and such date, referred to in subsec. (c), were in the original “the date of the enactment of this section” and “such date of enactment”, respectively, and were translated as meaning the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114-328, which amended this section generally, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XII, §1299Q(e)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4024, which amended this section, was itself amended by Pub. L. 116-260, div. O, title XIII, §1301, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2158, to make it effective 90 days after Jan. 1, 2021. However, the amendment by Pub. L. 116-260 could not be executed because it was enacted before the provision from Pub. L. 116-283 that it amended.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283, §1299Q(e)(1)(A), substituted “United States Agency for Global Media” for “Broadcasting Board of Governors” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-283, §1299Q(e)(1)(B), substituted “United States Agency for Global Media” for “Broadcasting Board of Governors”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-283, §1299Q(e)(1)(C), substituted “United States Agency for Global Media” for “Broadcasting Board of Governors”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-283, §1299Q(e)(1)(D), substituted “Agency” for “Board” in two places.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116-283, §1299P(c)(1), inserted “the Open Technology Fund,” before “the Middle East Broadcasting Networks”.

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to the continued existence within the Executive branch, retention of existing Board members, Inspector General authorities, composition, term, selection, compensation, decisions, and immunity from civil liability of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

1999—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title V, §502(2)], which directed amendment of par. (2) by inserting “, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate” at end, was executed by making the insertion before period at end, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title V, §502(1)], substituted “appoint” for “designate”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title V, §504], added subsec. (g).

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-277, §1322, amended heading and text of subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There is hereby established within the United States Information Agency a Broadcasting Board of Governors (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the ‘Board’).”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-277, §1323(b), substituted “Secretary of State” for “Director of the United States Information Agency” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-277, §1323(b), (c), in first sentence, substituted “Secretary of State” for “Director