

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2323

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2015

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “United States International Communications Reform Act  
6 of 2015”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.
- Sec. 3. Purposes.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Broadcasting standards.
- Sec. 6. Eligible broadcast areas.

## TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

### Subtitle A—Establishment of the United States International Communications Agency

- Sec. 101. Existence within the Executive Branch.
- Sec. 102. Establishment of the Board of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 103. Authorities and duties of the board of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 104. Establishment of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 105. Authorities and duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 106. Role of the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 107. Role of the Inspector General.
- Sec. 108. Enhanced coordination between United States International Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network; Program content sharing; Grantee independence.
- Sec. 109. Enhanced coordination among the United States International Communications Agency, the Freedom News Network, and the Department of State; Freedom News Network independence.
- Sec. 110. Grants to the Freedom News Network.
- Sec. 111. Other personnel and compensation limitations.
- Sec. 112. Reporting requirements of the United States International Communications Agency.

### Subtitle B—The Voice of America

- Sec. 121. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 122. Principles of the Voice of America.
- Sec. 123. Duties and responsibilities of the Voice of America.
- Sec. 124. Limitation on Voice of America news, programming, and content; Exception for broadcasting to Cuba.
- Sec. 125. Director of Voice of America.

### Subtitle C—General Provisions

- Sec. 131. Federal agency coordination in support of United States public diplomacy.
- Sec. 132. Federal agency assistance and coordination with the United States International Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network during international broadcast surges.
- Sec. 133. Freedom News Network right of first refusal in instances of Federal disposal of radio or television broadcast transmission facilities or equipment.
- Sec. 134. Repeal of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994.
- Sec. 135. Effective date.

## TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress.

Subtitle A—Consolidation of Existing Grantee Organizations

Sec. 211. Formation of the Freedom News Network from existing grantees.

Sec. 212. Mission of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 213. Standards and principles of the Freedom News Network.

Subtitle B—Organization of the Freedom News Network

Sec. 221. Governance of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 222. Budget of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 223. Assistance from other government agencies.

Sec. 224. Reports by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of State; Audits by GAO.

Sec. 225. Amendments to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948.

## TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Preservation of United States National Security objectives.

**1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

2 Congress finds and declares the following:

3 (1) United States international broadcasting ex-  
4 ists to advance the United States interests and val-  
5 ues by presenting accurate, objective, and com-  
6 prehensive news and information, which is the foun-  
7 dation for democratic governance, to societies that  
8 lack a free media.

9 (2) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of  
10 Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right  
11 to freedom of opinion and expression”, and that  
12 “this right includes freedom to hold opinions without  
13 interference and to seek, receive and impart infor-  
14 mation and ideas through any media and regardless  
15 of frontiers”.

1           (3) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified  
2       before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
3       House of Representatives on January 23, 2013, that  
4       the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) “is  
5       practically a defunct agency in terms of its capacity  
6       to be able to tell a message around the world. So  
7       we’re abdicating the ideological arena and need to  
8       get back into it.”.

9           (4) The BBG, which was created by Congress  
10      to oversee the United States international broad-  
11      casting in the wake of the Cold War, has, because  
12      of structural and managerial issues, had limited suc-  
13      cess to date in both coordinating the various compo-  
14      nents of the international broadcasting framework  
15      and managing the day-to-day operations of the Fed-  
16      eral components of the international broadcasting  
17      framework.

18          (5) The lack of regular attendance by board  
19      members and a periodic inability to form a quorum  
20      have plagued the BBG and, as a result, it has been  
21      functionally incapable of running the agency.

22          (6) The board of governors has only achieved  
23      the full slate of all nine governors for seven of its  
24      17 years of existence, which highlights the difficul-

1       ties of confirming and retaining governors under the  
2       current structure.

3           (7) Both the Department of State's Office of  
4       Inspector General and the Government Account-  
5       ability Office have issued reports which outline a se-  
6       verely dysfunctional organizational structure of the  
7       Broadcasting Board of Governors.

8           (8) The Inspector General of the Department of  
9       State concluded in its January 2013 report that dys-  
10      function of the BBG stems from "a flawed legisla-  
11      tive structure and acute internal dissension".

12          (9) The Inspector General of the Department of  
13      State also found that the BBG's structure of nine  
14      part-time members "cannot effectively supervise all  
15      United States Government-supported, civilian inter-  
16      national broadcasting", and its involvement in day-  
17      to-day operations has impeded normal management  
18      functions.

19          (10) The Government Accountability Office re-  
20      port determined that there was significant overlap  
21      among the BBG's languages services, and that the  
22      BBG did not systematically consider the financial  
23      cost of overlap.

24          (11) According to the Office of the Inspector  
25      General, the BBG's Office of Contracts is not in

1 compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation,  
2 lacks appropriate contract oversight, and violates the  
3 Anti-Deficiency Act. The Office of the Inspector  
4 General also determined that the Broadcasting  
5 Board of Governors has not adequately performed  
6 full and open competitions or price determinations,  
7 has entered into hundreds of personal service con-  
8 tracts without statutory authority, and contractors  
9 regularly work without valid contracts in place.

10 (12) The size and make-up of the BBG work-  
11 force should be closely examined, given the agency's  
12 broader broadcasting and technical mission, as well  
13 as changing media technologies.

14 (13) The BBG should be structured to ensure  
15 that more taxpayer dollars are dedicated to the sub-  
16 stantive, broadcasting, and information-related ele-  
17 ments of the agency's mission.

18 (14) The lack of a coherent and well defined  
19 mission of the Voice of America has led to program-  
20 ming that duplicates the efforts of the Office of  
21 Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, RFE/RL, In-  
22 corporated, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
23 works, Incorporated that results in inefficient use of  
24 tax-payer funding.

1           (15) The annual survey conducted by the  
2           “Partnership for Public Service” consistently ranks  
3           the Broadcasting Board of Governors at or near the  
4           bottom of all Federal agencies in terms of “overall  
5           best places to work” and “the extent to which em-  
6           ployees feel their skills and talents are used effec-  
7           tively”. The consistency of these low scores point to  
8           structural, cultural, and functional problems at the  
9           Broadcasting Board of Governors.

10          (16) The Federal and non-Federal organiza-  
11          tions that comprise the United States international  
12          broadcasting framework have different, yet com-  
13          plementary, missions that necessitate coordination at  
14          all levels of management.

15          (17) The Broadcasting Board of Governors has  
16          an overabundance of senior civil service positions,  
17          defined here as full-time employees encumbering  
18          GS-14 and GS-15 positions on the General Sched-  
19          ule pay scale.

20          (18) United States international broadcasting  
21          should seek to leverage public-private partnerships,  
22          including the licensing of content and the use of  
23          technology owned or operated by non-governmental  
24          sources, where possible to expand outreach capacity.

1           (19) Shortwave broadcasting has been an im-  
2           portant method of communication that should be  
3           utilized in regions as a component of United States  
4           international broadcasting where a critical need for  
5           the platform exists.

6           (20) Congressional action is necessary at this  
7           time to improve international broadcasting oper-  
8           ations, strengthen the United States public diplo-  
9           macy efforts, enhance the grantee surrogate broad-  
10          casting effort, restore focus to news, programming,  
11          and content, and maximize the value of Federal and  
12          non-Federal resources that are dedicated to public  
13          diplomacy and international broadcasting.

14 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

15       The purposes of this Act are as follows:

16           (1) To provide objective, accurate, credible, and  
17           comprehensive news and information to societies  
18           that lack freedom of expression and information.

19           (2) To improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and  
20           flexibility of United States international broad-  
21           casting to allow it to adapt to constantly changing  
22           political and media environments through clarifica-  
23           tion of missions, improved coordination, and organi-  
24           zational restructuring.



1           (3) To coordinate the complementary efforts of  
2           the Department of State and United States inter-  
3           national broadcasting.

4           (4) To create a United States international  
5           broadcasting framework that more effectively  
6           leverages the broadcasting tools available and cre-  
7           ates specialization of expertise in mission oriented  
8           programming, while minimizing waste and ineffi-  
9           ciency.

10          (5) To improve United States international  
11          broadcasting workforce effectiveness, security, and  
12          satisfaction.

13 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

14          In this Act:

15           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
16           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
17           mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
18           the House of Representatives, the Committee on  
19           Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on  
20           Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and  
21           the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

22           (2) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means the  
23           non-Federal organization described in section  
24           501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and  
25           exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code

1 as of day before the date of the enactment of this  
2 Act that receives Federal funding from the Broad-  
3 casting Board of Governors, and includes Radio  
4 Free Asia, RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Middle  
5 East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated.

6 (3) FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—The term  
7 “Freedom News Network” refers to the non-Federal  
8 organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the  
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax  
10 under section 501(a) of such Code that would re-  
11 ceive Federal funding and be responsible for pro-  
12 moting democratic freedoms and free media oper-  
13 ations for foreign audiences in societies that lack  
14 freedom of expression and information, and con-  
15 sisting of the consolidation of the grantee in accord-  
16 ance with section 211.

17 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The term “public di-  
18 plomacy” means the effort to achieve broad United  
19 States foreign policy goals and objectives, advance  
20 national interests, and enhance national security by  
21 informing and influencing foreign publics and by ex-  
22 panding and strengthening the relationship between  
23 the people and Government of the United States and  
24 citizens of other countries.

1 **SEC. 5. BROADCASTING STANDARDS.**

2 United States international broadcasting shall incor-  
3 porate the following standards into all of its broadcasting  
4 efforts:

5 (1) Be consistent with the broad foreign policy  
6 objectives of the United States.

7 (2) Be consistent with the international tele-  
8 communications policies and treaty obligations of the  
9 United States.

10 (3) Complement and not duplicate the activities  
11 of private United States broadcasters.

12 (4) Be conducted in accordance with the high-  
13 est professional standards of broadcast journalism  
14 while remaining consistent with and supportive of  
15 the broad foreign policy objectives of the United  
16 States.

17 (5) Be based on reliable, research-based infor-  
18 mation, both quantitative and qualitative, about its  
19 potential audience.

20 (6) Be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-  
21 nificant audience.

22 (7) Promote freedom of expression, religion,  
23 and respect for human rights and human equality.

24 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBLE BROADCAST AREAS.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United States  
26 International Communications Agency and the Board of

1 the Freedom News Network, in consultation with the Sec-  
2 retary of State, shall ensure that United States inter-  
3 national broadcasting is conducted only to countries and  
4 regions that—

5           (1) lack democratic rule, or the indicia of demo-  
6 cratic rule, such as demonstrable proof of free and  
7 fair elections;

8           (2) lack the legal and political environment that  
9 allows media organizations and journalists to oper-  
10 ate free from government-led or permitted harass-  
11 ment, intimidation, retribution, and from economic  
12 impediments to the development, production, and  
13 dissemination of news and related programming and  
14 content;

15           (3) lack established, domestic, and widely acces-  
16 sible media that provide accurate, objective, and  
17 comprehensive news and related programming and  
18 content; and

19           (4) by virtue of the criteria described in this  
20 subsection, would benefit the national security and  
21 related interests of the United States, and the safety  
22 and security of United States citizens at home and  
23 abroad.

24       (b) EXCEPTION.—The United States International  
25 Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network

1 may broadcast to countries that fall outside of the criteria  
 2 described in subsection (a) if the Chief Executive Officer  
 3 of the Agency and the Freedom News Network, in con-  
 4 sultation with the Secretary of State, determine it is in  
 5 the national security interest of the United States, or in  
 6 the interests of preserving the safety and security of  
 7 United States citizens at home and abroad, to do so.

8 **TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, OR-**  
 9 **GANIZATION, AND MANAGE-**  
 10 **MENT OF THE UNITED**  
 11 **STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
 12 **COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY**

13 **Subtitle A—Establishment of the**  
 14 **United States International**  
 15 **Communications Agency**

16 **SEC. 101. EXISTENCE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.**

17       There is hereby established a single Federal organiza-  
 18 tion consisting of the Voice of America and the offices that  
 19 constitute the International Broadcasting Bureau and re-  
 20 ferred to hereafter as the “United States International  
 21 Communications Agency”, which shall exist within the ex-  
 22 ecutive branch of Government as an independent estab-  
 23 lishment described in section 104 of title 5, United States  
 24 Code.

1 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED**  
2 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
3 **AGENCY.**

4 (a) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED  
5 STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United  
7 States International Communications Agency (in  
8 this title referred to as the “Board”) shall consist of  
9 nine members, as follows:

10 (A) Eight voting members who shall be ap-  
11 pointed by the President, by and with the ad-  
12 vice and consent of the Senate.

13 (B) The Secretary of State, who shall also  
14 be a voting member.

15 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall appoint one  
16 member (other than the Secretary of State) as Chair  
17 of the Board, by and with the advice and consent of  
18 the Senate.

19 (3) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Exclusive of the  
20 Secretary of State, not more than four members of  
21 the Board shall be of the same political party.

22 (4) RETENTION OF EXISTING BBG MEMBERS.—  
23 The presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed  
24 members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
25 serving as of the date of the enactment of this Act  
26 shall constitute the Board of the United States

1 International Communications Agency and hold of-  
2 fice for the remainder of their original terms of of-  
3 fice without reappointment to the Board.

4 (b) TERMS OF OFFICE.—The term of office of each  
5 member of the Board shall be three years, except that the  
6 Secretary of State shall remain a member of the Board  
7 during the Secretary's term of service. Of the other eight  
8 voting members, the initial terms of office of two members  
9 shall be one year, and the initial terms of office of three  
10 other members shall be two years, as determined by the  
11 President. The President shall appoint, by and with the  
12 advice and consent of the Senate, Board members to fill  
13 vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of a term, in  
14 which case the members so appointed shall serve for the  
15 remainder of such term. Members may not serve beyond  
16 their terms. When there is no Secretary of State, the Act-  
17 ing Secretary of State shall serve as a member of the  
18 Board until a Secretary is appointed.

19 (c) SELECTION OF BOARD.—Members of the Board  
20 shall be citizens of the United States who are not regular  
21 full-time employees of the United States Government.  
22 Such members shall be selected by the President from  
23 among citizens distinguished in the fields of public diplo-  
24 macy, mass communications, print, broadcast media, or  
25 foreign affairs.

1       (d) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board, while  
2 attending meetings of the Board or while engaged in du-  
3 ties relating to such meetings or in other activities of the  
4 Board pursuant to this section (including travel time)  
5 shall be entitled to receive compensation equal to the daily  
6 equivalent of the compensation prescribed for level IV of  
7 the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,  
8 United States Code. While away from their homes or reg-  
9 ular places of business, members of the Board may be al-  
10 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
11 sistence, in accordance with section 5703 of such title for  
12 persons in the Government service employed intermit-  
13 tently. The Secretary of State shall not be entitled to any  
14 compensation for service on the Board.

15       (e) DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Board shall be  
16 made by majority vote, a quorum being present. A quorum  
17 shall consist of a majority of members then serving at the  
18 time a decision of the Board is made.

19       (f) TRANSPARENCY.—The Board of the United  
20 States International Communications Agency shall adhere  
21 to the provisions specified in the Government in the Sun-  
22 shine Act (Public Law 94–409).



1 **SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF**  
2 **THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COM-**  
3 **MUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 The Board of the United States International Com-  
5 munications Agency shall have the following authorities:

6 (1) To review and evaluate the mission and op-  
7 eration of, and to assess the quality, effectiveness,  
8 and professional integrity of, all programming pro-  
9 duced by the United States International Commu-  
10 nications Agency to ensure alignment with the broad  
11 foreign policy objectives of the United States.

12 (2) To ensure that broadcasting of the United  
13 States International Communications Agency is con-  
14 ducted in accordance with the standards specified in  
15 section 5.

16 (3) To review, evaluate, and recommend to the  
17 Chief Executive of the United States International  
18 Communications Agency, at least annually, in con-  
19 sultation with the Secretary of State, the necessity  
20 of adding or deleting language services of the Agen-  
21 cy.

22 (4) To submit to the President and Congress  
23 an annual report which summarizes and evaluates  
24 activities of the United States International Commu-  
25 nications Agency described in this title.

1 **SEC. 104. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFI-**  
2 **CER OF THE UNITED STATES INTER-**  
3 **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Chief Executive  
5 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
6 tions Agency, appointed by the Board of the Agency for  
7 a five-year term, renewable at the Board's discretion, and  
8 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,  
9 governing appointments, classification, and compensation.

10 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Executive Officer  
11 shall be selected from among United States citizens with  
12 two or more of the following qualifications:

13 (1) A distinguished career in managing a large  
14 organization or Federal agency.

15 (2) Experience in the field of mass communica-  
16 tions, print, or broadcast media.

17 (3) Experience in foreign affairs or inter-  
18 national relations.

19 (4) Experience in directing United States public  
20 diplomacy programs.

21 (c) TERMINATION AND TRANSFER.—Immediately  
22 upon appointment of the Chief Executive Officer under  
23 subsection (a), the Director of the International Broad-  
24 casting Bureau shall be terminated, and all of the respon-  
25 sibilities and authorities of the Director shall be trans-  
26 ferred to and assumed by the Chief Executive Officer.

1 (d) REMOVAL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The  
2 Chief Executive Officer under subsection (a) may be re-  
3 moved upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members  
4 of the Board of the United States International Commu-  
5 nications Agency then serving.

6 (e) COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF-  
7 FICER.—Any Chief Executive Officer of the United States  
8 International Communications Agency hired after the date  
9 of the enactment of this Act, shall be eligible to receive  
10 compensation up to an annual rate of pay equivalent to  
11 level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of  
12 title 5, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 105. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF EXECU-**  
14 **TIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES**  
15 **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

16 (a) DUTIES.—The Chief Executive Officer under sec-  
17 tion 104 shall direct operations of the United States Inter-  
18 national Communications Agency and shall have the fol-  
19 lowing non-delegable authorities, subject to the super-  
20 vision of the Board of the United States International  
21 Communications Agency:

22 (1) To supervise all Federal broadcasting activi-  
23 ties conducted pursuant to title V of the United  
24 States Information and Educational Exchange Act  
25 of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) and the Voice of

1 America as described in subtitle B of title I of this  
2 Act.

3 (2) To make and ensure compliance with the  
4 terms and conditions of the grant agreement in ac-  
5 cordance with section 110.

6 (3) To review engineering activities to ensure  
7 that all broadcasting elements receive the highest  
8 quality and cost-effective delivery services.

9 (4) To undertake such studies as may be nec-  
10 essary to identify areas in which broadcasting activi-  
11 ties under the authority of the United States Inter-  
12 national Communications Agency could be made  
13 more efficient and economical.

14 (5) To the extent considered necessary to carry  
15 out the functions of the Board, procure supplies,  
16 services, and other personal property, as well as pro-  
17 curement pursuant to section 1535 of title 31,  
18 United States Code (commonly referred to as the  
19 “Economy Act”), of such goods and services from  
20 other Federal agencies for the Board as the Board  
21 determines are appropriate.

22 (6) To appoint such staff personnel for the  
23 Board as the Board may determine to be necessary,  
24 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States  
25 Code, governing appointments in the competitive

1 service, and to fix their compensation in accordance  
2 with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III  
3 of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification  
4 and General Schedule pay rates.

5 (7) To obligate and expend, for official recep-  
6 tion and representation expenses, such amounts as  
7 may be made available through appropriations Acts.

8 (8) To make available in the annual reports re-  
9 quired under section 103 information on funds ex-  
10 pended on administrative and managerial services by  
11 the Board of the United States Communications  
12 Agency, and the steps the Board has taken to re-  
13 duce unnecessary overhead costs for each of the  
14 broadcasting services.

15 (9) To provide for the use of United States  
16 Government broadcasting capacity to the Freedom  
17 News Network.

18 (10)(A) To procure temporary and intermittent  
19 personal services to the same extent as is authorized  
20 by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at  
21 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate  
22 provided for positions classified above grade GS-15  
23 of the General Schedule under section 5108 of such  
24 title.

1           (B) To allow those individuals providing such  
2       services, while away from their homes or their reg-  
3       ular places of business, travel expenses (including  
4       per diem in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by sec-  
5       tion 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons  
6       in the Government service employed intermittently,  
7       while so employed.

8           (11) To utilize the provisions of titles III, IV,  
9       V, VII, VIII, IX, and X of the United States Infor-  
10      mation and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22  
11      U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and section 6 of Reorganiza-  
12      tion Plan Number 2 of 1977, as in effect on the day  
13      before the effective date of title XIII of the Foreign  
14      Affairs Agencies Consolidation Act of 1998, to the  
15      extent the Board considers necessary to carry out  
16      the provisions and purposes of this Act.

17          (12) To utilize the authorities of any other stat-  
18      ute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation,  
19      agreement, determination, or other official document  
20      or proceeding that had been available to the Director  
21      of the United States Information Agency, the Inter-  
22      national Broadcasting Bureau, or the Board of the  
23      Broadcasting Board of Governors before the date of  
24      the enactment of this Act.

1           (13)(A) To provide for the payment of primary  
2           and secondary school expenses for dependents of  
3           personnel stationed in the Commonwealth of the  
4           Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) at a cost not to  
5           exceed expenses authorized by the Department of  
6           Defense for such schooling for dependents of mem-  
7           bers of the Armed Forces stationed in the Common-  
8           wealth, if the Board determines that schools avail-  
9           able in the Commonwealth are unable to provide  
10          adequately for the education of the dependents of  
11          such personnel.

12          (B) To provide transportation for dependents of  
13          such personnel between their places of residence and  
14          those schools for which expenses are provided under  
15          subparagraph (A), if the Board determines that such  
16          schools are not accessible by public means of trans-  
17          portation.

18          (b) CONSULTATIONS.—The Chief Executive Officer  
19          of the United States International Communications Agen-  
20          cy shall regularly consult with the Chief Executive Officer  
21          of the Freedom News Network and the Secretary of State  
22          as described in sections 108 and 109.

23      **SEC. 106. ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

24          To assist the Board of the United States Inter-  
25          national Communications Agency in carrying out its func-

1 tions, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Board  
 2 information in accordance with section 109(b), as well as  
 3 guidance on United States foreign policy and public diplo-  
 4 macy priorities, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

5 **SEC. 107. ROLE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the De-  
 7 partment of State shall exercise the same authorities with  
 8 respect to the United States International Communica-  
 9 tions Agency and the Freedom News Network as the In-  
 10 spector General exercises with respect to the Department.

11 (b) JOURNALIST INTEGRITY.—The Inspector General  
 12 of the Department of State shall respect the journalistic  
 13 integrity of all the broadcasters covered by this Act and  
 14 may not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives  
 15 reflected in the content of the broadcasts of such broad-  
 16 casters.

17 **SEC. 108. ENHANCED COORDINATION BETWEEN UNITED**  
 18 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 19 **AGENCY AND THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-**  
 20 **WORK; PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING;**  
 21 **GRANTEE INDEPENDENCE.**

22 (a) MEETINGS.—The chair of the Board and Chief  
 23 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
 24 munications Agency shall meet at least on a quarterly  
 25 basis with the chair and Chief Executive Officer, as identi-



1   fied in section 221, of the Freedom News Network to dis-  
2   cuss mutual issues of concern, including the following:

3           (1) The strategic direction of their respective  
4       organizations, including target audiences.

5           (2) Languages of information transmission.

6           (3) Prioritization of funding allocations.

7           (4) Areas for greater collaboration.

8           (5) Elimination of programming overlap.

9           (6) Efficiencies that can be realized through  
10   best practices and lessons learned.

11          (7) Sharing of program content.

12       (b) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Chief Executive  
13   Officer of the United States International Broadcasting  
14   Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom  
15   News Network shall share all strategic planning docu-  
16   ments, including the following:

17           (1) Results monitoring and evaluation.

18           (2) Annual planning documents.

19           (3) Audience surveys conducted.

20           (4) Budget formulation documents.

21       (c) PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING.—The United  
22   States International Communications Agency and the  
23   Freedom News Network shall make all original content  
24   available to each other through a shared platform in ac-  
25   cordance with section 112(a)(3).

1 (d) INDEPENDENCE OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-  
 2 WORK.—The United States International Communications  
 3 Agency, while conducting management of the grant de-  
 4 scribed in section 110, shall avoid even the appearance of  
 5 involvement in daily operations, decisions, or management  
 6 of the Freedom News Network, and ensure that the dis-  
 7 tinctions between the United States International Commu-  
 8 nications Agency and the Freedom News Network remain  
 9 in accordance with this Act.

10 **SEC. 109. ENHANCED COORDINATION AMONG THE UNITED**  
 11 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 12 **AGENCY, THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK,**  
 13 **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; FREEDOM**  
 14 **NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.**

15 (a) COORDINATION MEETINGS.—The Chief Execu-  
 16 tive Officer of the United States International Commu-  
 17 nications Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the  
 18 Freedom News Network shall meet, at least on a quarterly  
 19 basis, with the Secretary of State to—

- 20 (1) review and evaluate broadcast activities;
- 21 (2) eliminate overlap of programming; and
- 22 (3) determine long-term strategies for inter-  
 23 national broadcasting to ensure such strategies are  
 24 in accordance with the broad foreign policy interests  
 25 of the United States.

1       (b) STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS.—The Chief  
2 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
3 munications Agency, the Chief Executive Officer of the  
4 Freedom News Network, and the Secretary of State shall  
5 share all relevant unclassified strategic planning docu-  
6 ments produced by the Agency, the Freedom News Net-  
7 work, and the Department of State.

8       (c) FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.—  
9 The Department of State, while coordinating with the  
10 Freedom News Network in accordance with subsection (a),  
11 shall avoid even the appearance of involvement in the daily  
12 operations, decisions, or management of the Freedom  
13 News Network, and ensure that the distinctions between  
14 the Department of State and Freedom News Network re-  
15 main in accordance with this Act.

16 **SEC. 110. GRANTS TO THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

17       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the  
18 United States International Communications Agency shall  
19 make grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,  
20 or the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated  
21 only after the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and  
22 the Chief Executive Officer of Freedom News Network  
23 certify to the appropriate congressional committees that  
24 the headquarters of the Freedom News Network and its  
25 senior administrative and managerial staff are in a loca-

1 tion which ensures economy, operational effectiveness, and  
2 accountability, and the following conditions have been sat-  
3 isfied:

4 (1) RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,  
5 and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
6 porated have submitted to the Chief Executive Offi-  
7 cer of the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency a plan for consolidation and reconstitu-  
9 tion as described in section 211 under the new cor-  
10 porate name “Freedom News Network” with a sin-  
11 gle organizational structure and management frame-  
12 work, as described in section 221.

13 (2) The necessary steps towards the consolida-  
14 tion described in paragraph (1) have been com-  
15 pleted, including the selection of a Board, Chair, and  
16 Chief Executive Officer for the Freedom News Net-  
17 work, the establishment of bylaws to govern the  
18 Freedom News Network, and the filing of articles of  
19 incorporation.

20 (3) A plan for content sharing has been devel-  
21 oped in accordance with section 112(a)(3).

22 (4) A strategic plan for programming imple-  
23 mentation has been developed as specified in section  
24 222(c), including the following elements:

1           (A) The strategic goals and objectives of  
2           the Freedom News Network for the upcoming  
3           fiscal year.

4           (B) The alignment of the Freedom News  
5           Network's resources with the strategic goals  
6           and objectives referred to in subparagraph (A).

7           (C) Clear benchmarks that establish the  
8           progress made towards achieving the strategic  
9           goals and objectives referred to in subparagraph  
10          (A).

11          (D) A plan to monitor and evaluate the  
12          success of the Freedom News Network's broad-  
13          casting efforts.

14          (E) A reflective analysis on the activities  
15          on the past fiscal year.

16          (F) Any changes to facility leases, con-  
17          tracts, or ownership that would result in the re-  
18          location of staff or personnel.

19          (G) Any changes to broadcast languages,  
20          including the transfer of language services to  
21          the Freedom News Network from the United  
22          States International Communications Agency,  
23          or to an organization other than the Freedom  
24          New Network.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Board of the United  
3 States International Communications Agency shall submit  
4 to Congress a report on the status of any grants made  
5 to the Freedom News Network.

6 (c) ALTERNATIVE GRANTEE.—If the Chief Executive  
7 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency, after consultation with the Board of the  
9 Agency and the appropriate congressional committees, de-  
10 termines at any time that the Freedom News Network is  
11 not carrying out the mission described in section 212 and  
12 adhering to the standards and principles described in sec-  
13 tion 213 in an effective and economical manner for which  
14 a grant has been awarded, the Chief Executive Officer of  
15 the Agency, upon approval of the Board, may award to  
16 another entity the grant at issue to carry out such func-  
17 tions after soliciting and considering applications from eli-  
18 gible entities in such manner and accompanied by such  
19 information as the Board may require.

20 (d) NOT A FEDERAL ENTITY.—Nothing in this Act  
21 may be construed to make the Freedom News Network  
22 a Federal agency or instrumentality.

23 (e) AUTHORITY.—Grants authorized under this sec-  
24 tion for the United States International Communications  
25 Agency shall be available to make annual grants to the

1 Freedom News Network for the purpose of carrying out  
2 the mission described in section 212 and adhering to the  
3 standards and principles described in section 213.

4 (f) GRANT AGREEMENT.—Grants authorized under  
5 this section to the Freedom News Network by the Chief  
6 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
7 munications Agency shall only be made in accordance with  
8 a grant agreement. Such grant agreement shall include  
9 the following provisions:

10 (1) A grant shall be used only for activities in  
11 accordance with carrying out the mission described  
12 in section 212 and adhering to the standards and  
13 principles described in section 213.

14 (2) The Freedom News Network shall comply  
15 with the requirements of this section.

16 (3) Failure to comply with the requirements of  
17 this section may result in suspension or termination  
18 of a grant without further obligation by the United  
19 States International Communications Agency or the  
20 United States.

21 (4) Use of broadcasting technology owned and  
22 operated by the United States International Commu-  
23 nications Agency shall be made available through an  
24 International Cooperative Administrative Support

1 Service (ICASS) agreement or memorandum of un-  
2 derstanding.

3 (5) The Freedom News Network shall, upon re-  
4 quest, provide to the Chief Executive Officer of the  
5 United States International Communications Agency  
6 documentation which details the expenditure of any  
7 grant funds.

8 (6) A grant may not be used to require the  
9 Freedom News Network to comply with any require-  
10 ments other than the requirements specified in this  
11 Act.

12 (7) A grant may not be used to allocate re-  
13 sources within the Freedom News Network in a  
14 manner that is inconsistent with the Freedom News  
15 Network strategic plan described in section 222(c).

16 (g) PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF GRANTS.—  
17 Grants authorized under this section may not be used for  
18 the following purposes:

19 (1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B)  
20 or (C), to pay any salary or other compensation, or  
21 enter into any contract providing for the payment of  
22 salary or compensation, in excess of the rates estab-  
23 lished for comparable positions under title 5, United  
24 States Code, or the foreign relations laws of the  
25 United States, except that no employee may be paid



1 a salary or other compensation in excess of the rate  
2 of pay payable for level III of the Executive Sched-  
3 ule under section 5314 of such title.

4 (B) Salary and other compensation limitations  
5 under subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect  
6 to any employee covered by a union agreement re-  
7 quiring a salary or other compensation in excess of  
8 such limitations before the date of the enactment of  
9 this Act.

10 (C) Notwithstanding the limitations specified in  
11 subparagraph (A), grants authorized under this sec-  
12 tion may be used by the Freedom News Network to  
13 pay up to six employees employed in the Wash-  
14 ington, DC, area, salary or other compensation not  
15 to exceed the rate of pay payable for level II of the  
16 Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5,  
17 United States Code, except that such shall not apply  
18 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News  
19 Network in accordance with section 221(e).

20 (2) For any activity intended to influence the  
21 passage or defeat of legislation being considered by  
22 Congress.

23 (3) To enter into a contract or obligation to pay  
24 severance payments for voluntary separation for em-  
25 ployees hired after December 1, 1990, except as may

1 be required by United States law or the laws of the  
2 country where such an employee is stationed.

3 (4) For first class travel for any employee of  
4 the Freedom News Network, or the relative of any  
5 such employee.

6 **SEC. 111. OTHER PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION LIMITA-**  
7 **TIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the organizational and  
9 personnel restrictions described in subsection (c), the  
10 Chief Executive Officer of the United States International  
11 Communications Agency shall have the discretion to deter-  
12 mine the distribution of all personnel within the Agency,  
13 subject to the approval of the Board of the Agency.

14 (b) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—No employee of the United  
16 States International Communications Agency, other  
17 than the Chief Executive Officer or Director of the  
18 Voice of America, shall be eligible to receive com-  
19 pensation at a rate in excess of step 10 of an annual  
20 rate of basic pay for grade GS–15 of the General  
21 Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United  
22 States Code.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in  
24 paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of members  
25 of the Board in accordance with section 102(d) or

1       affect the rights of employees covered under the  
2       Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

3       (c) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN NEW EMPLOY-  
4       MENT.—

5               (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the  
6       enactment of this Act and ending on the date that  
7       is five years after such date, the United States  
8       International Communications Agency may not fill  
9       any currently unfilled full-time or part-time position  
10      compensated at an annual rate of basic pay for  
11      grade GS–14 or GS–15 of the General Schedule  
12      under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code,  
13      including any currently filled position in which the  
14      incumbent resigns, retires, or otherwise leaves such  
15      position during the such five-year period.

16             (2) WAIVER.—The Chief Executive Officer of  
17      the United States International Communications  
18      Agency may waive the prohibition specified in para-  
19      graph (1) if the position is determined essential to  
20      the functioning of the Agency and documented as  
21      such in the report required under section 112(a), or  
22      necessary for the acquisition of skills or knowledge  
23      not sufficiently represented in the current workforce  
24      of the Agency. The Chief Executive Officer of the  
25      Agency shall consult with the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees before issuing a waiver under this  
2 paragraph.

3 (d) CONTINUATION OF FEDERAL STATUS.—Nothing  
4 in this Act may be interpreted to change the Federal sta-  
5 tus or rights of employees of the Voice of America or the  
6 International Broadcasting Bureau by the consolidation  
7 and establishment of the United States International  
8 Communications Agency.

9 **SEC. 112. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED**  
10 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
11 **AGENCY.**

12 (a) REORGANIZATION REPORT.—Not later than 180  
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief  
14 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
15 munications Agency shall submit to the appropriate Con-  
16 gressional committees a report that includes the following:

17 (1) A plan to assess and provide recommenda-  
18 tions on the appropriate size and necessity of all  
19 current offices and positions (also referred to as a  
20 “staffing pattern”) within the Agency, including full-  
21 time employee positions rated at the Senior Execu-  
22 tive Service (SES) level or at an annual rate of basic  
23 pay for grades GS–14 or GS–15 of the General  
24 Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United  
25 States Code. Such plan shall include a detailed orga-

1       nizational structure that delineates lines of authority  
2       and reporting between junior staff, management,  
3       and leadership.

4           (2) A plan to consolidate the Voice of America  
5       and the International Broadcasting Bureau into a  
6       single Federal entity identified as the “United  
7       States International Communications Agency”, and  
8       how the structure and alignment of resources sup-  
9       port the fulfillment of the Agency’s mission and  
10      standards and principles as described in sections 5  
11      and 122.

12          (3) A plan for developing a platform to share  
13      all programming content between the United States  
14      International Communications Agency and the Free-  
15      dom News Network, including making available for  
16      distribution all programming content licensed or pro-  
17      duced by the Agency and the Freedom News Net-  
18      work, and expanding the functionality of the plat-  
19      forms already in existence, such as the web content  
20      management system “Pangea”.

21          (4) A joint plan written with the Chief Execu-  
22      tive Officer of the Freedom News Network to coordi-  
23      nate the transition of language services between the  
24      United States International Communications Agency

1 and the Freedom News Network in accordance with  
2 sections 6, 109, and 222(c).

3 (b) CONTRACTING REPORT.—The Chief Executive  
4 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
5 tions Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate con-  
6 gressional committees a report on the Agency’s compliance  
7 with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (the “FAR”) and  
8 the Anti-Deficiency Act, including a review of contracts  
9 awarded on a non-competitive basis, compliance with the  
10 FAR requirement for publicizing contract actions, the use  
11 of any personal service contracts without explicit statutory  
12 authority, and processes for contract oversight in compli-  
13 ance with the FAR.

14 (c) LISTENERSHIP REPORT.—The Chief Executive  
15 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
16 tions Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate con-  
17 gressional committees a report that details the trans-  
18 mission capacities, market penetration, and audience  
19 listenership of all mediums of international communication  
20 deployed by the United States International Communica-  
21 tions Agency, including a plan for how target audiences  
22 can be reached if the first medium of delivery is unavail-  
23 able.

24 (d) GAO REPORT.—Every five years after the date  
25 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of

1 the United States shall submit to the appropriate congress-  
2 sional committees a report that reviews the effectiveness  
3 of content sharing between the United States Inter-  
4 national Communications Agency and the Freedom News  
5 Network and makes recommendations on how content  
6 sharing can be improved.

7 (e) LANGUAGE REPORT.—Not later than one year  
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Ex-  
9 ecutive Officer of the United States International Commu-  
10 nications Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the  
11 Freedom News Network shall submit to the appropriate  
12 congressional committees a joint report detailing—

13 (1) information outlining the criteria and anal-  
14 ysis used to determine broadcast recipient countries  
15 and regions; and

16 (2) an initial list of broadcast countries and re-  
17 gions.

## 18 **Subtitle B—The Voice of America**

### 19 **SEC. 121. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that—

21 (1) the Voice of America has been an indispen-  
22 sable element of United States foreign policy and  
23 public diplomacy efforts since 1942, and should re-  
24 main the flagship brand of the United States Inter-  
25 national Communications Agency;

1           (2) the Voice of America has been a reliable  
2       source of accurate, objective, and comprehensive  
3       news and related programming and content for the  
4       millions of people around the world who cannot ob-  
5       tain such news and related programming and con-  
6       tent from indigenous media outlets;

7           (3) the Voice of America's success over more  
8       than seven decades has created valuable brand iden-  
9       tity and international recognition that justifies the  
10      maintenance of the Voice of America;

11          (4) the Voice of America's public diplomacy  
12      mission remains essential to broader United States  
13      Government efforts to communicate with foreign  
14      populations; and

15          (5) despite its tremendous historical success,  
16      the Voice of America would benefit substantially  
17      from a recalibration of Federal international broad-  
18      casting agencies and resources, which would provide  
19      the Voice of America with greater mission focus and  
20      flexibility in the deployment of news, programming,  
21      and content.

22   **SEC. 122. PRINCIPLES OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA.**

23      The Voice of America shall adhere to the following  
24      principles in the course of fulfilling its duties and respon-  
25      sibilities:



1           (1) Serving as a consistently reliable and au-  
2           thoritative source of news on the United States, its  
3           policies, its people, and the international develop-  
4           ments that affect the United States.

5           (2) Providing accurate, objective, and com-  
6           prehensive information, with the understanding that  
7           these three values provide credibility among global  
8           news audiences.

9           (3) Presenting the official policies of the United  
10          States, and related discussions and opinions about  
11          those policies, clearly and effectively.

12          (4) Representing the whole of the United  
13          States, and shall accordingly work to produce pro-  
14          gramming and content that presents a balanced and  
15          comprehensive projection of the diversity of thought  
16          and institutions of the United States.

17 **SEC. 123. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOICE OF**  
18 **AMERICA.**

19          The Voice of America shall have the following duties  
20 and responsibilities:

21           (1) Producing accurate, objective, and com-  
22           prehensive news.

23           (2) Producing content and related programming  
24           that accurately represents the diversity of thoughts  
25           and institutions of the United States as a whole and

1 is consistent with and presents the broad foreign  
2 policies of the United States.

3 (3) Producing content and related programming  
4 that provides a comprehensive understanding of the  
5 impact of United States foreign assistance programs  
6 and United States international philanthropy, com-  
7 plementing other media outlets.

8 (4) Presenting the law and policies of the  
9 United States clearly and effectively.

10 (5) Promoting the civil and responsible ex-  
11 change of information and differences of opinion re-  
12 garding policies, issues, and current events.

13 (6) Making all of its produced news and related  
14 programming and content available to the Freedom  
15 News Network for use and distribution.

16 (7) Producing or otherwise allowing editorials,  
17 commentary, and programming, in consultation with  
18 the Department of State, that present the official  
19 views of the United States Government and its offi-  
20 cials.

21 (8) Maximizing foreign national information ac-  
22 cess through both the use of existing broadcasting  
23 tools and resources and the development and dis-  
24 semination of circumvention technology.

1           (9) Providing training and technical support for  
2       independent indigenous media and journalist enter-  
3       prises in order to facilitate or enhance independent  
4       media environments and outlets abroad.

5           (10) Reaching identified foreign audiences in  
6       local languages and dialects when possible, particu-  
7       larly when such audiences form a distinct ethnic,  
8       cultural, or religious group within a country critical  
9       to United States national security interests.

10          (11) Being capable of providing a broadcasting  
11       surge capacity under circumstances where overseas  
12       disasters, crises, or other events require increased or  
13       heightened international public diplomacy engage-  
14       ment.

15 **SEC. 124. LIMITATION ON VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS, PRO-**  
16 **GRAMMING, AND CONTENT; EXCEPTION FOR**  
17 **BROADCASTING TO CUBA.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
19 (b), the Voice of America shall be limited to providing re-  
20 porting in accordance with the principles specified in sec-  
21 tion 122. Nothing in this section may preclude the Voice  
22 of America from broadcasting programming content pro-  
23 duced by the Freedom News Network.

24       (b) EXCEPTION FOR BROADCASTING TO CUBA.—  
25 Radio Marti and Television Marti, which constitute the

1 Office of Cuba Broadcasting, shall continue programming  
2 and content production consistent with the mission and  
3 activities as described in the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba  
4 Act (Public Law 98–111) and the Television Broadcasting  
5 to Cuba Act (Public Law 101–246), and continue existing  
6 within the Voice of America of the United States Inter-  
7 national Communications Agency, established in section  
8 101.

9 **SEC. 125. DIRECTOR OF VOICE OF AMERICA.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Director of  
11 the Voice of America, who shall be responsible for exe-  
12 cuting the duties and responsibilities of the Voice of Amer-  
13 ica described in subsection (b).

14 (b) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director  
15 of the Voice of America shall, subject to the final approval  
16 of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-  
17 national Communications Agency carry out the following  
18 duties and responsibilities:

19 (1) Determine the organizational structure of,  
20 and personnel allocation or relocation within, the  
21 Voice of America, subject to section 105.

22 (2) Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-  
23 tive Officer of the United States International Com-  
24 munications Agency regarding the production, devel-

1        opment, and termination of Voice of America news  
2        programming and content.

3            (3) Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-  
4        tive Officer of the United States International Com-  
5        munications Agency about the establishment, termi-  
6        nation, prioritization, and adjustments of language  
7        services utilized by the Voice of America to reach its  
8        international audience.

9            (4) Allocate funding and material resources  
10       under the jurisdiction of the Voice of America for  
11       the furtherance of the other duties and responsibil-  
12       ities established under this subsection.

13           (5) Oversee the daily operations of the Voice of  
14       America, including programming content.

15        (c) APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIREC-  
16       TOR.—

17            (1) IN GENERAL.—The position of Director of  
18       the Voice of America shall be filled by a person who  
19       shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Of-  
20       ficer of the United States International Communica-  
21       tions Agency.

22            (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to be ap-  
23       pointed Director of the Voice of America, a person  
24       shall have at least two of the following qualifications:

1 (A) Prior, extensive experience managing  
 2 or operating a private-sector media or journalist  
 3 enterprise.

4 (B) Prior, extensive experience managing  
 5 or operating a large organization.

6 (C) Prior, extensive experience engaged in  
 7 mass media or journalist program development,  
 8 including the development of circumvention  
 9 technologies.

10 (D) Prior, extensive experience engaged in  
 11 international journalism or other related activi-  
 12 ties, including the training of international jour-  
 13 nalists and the promotion of democratic institu-  
 14 tional reforms abroad.

15 (3) COMPENSATION.—Any Director who is  
 16 hired after the date of the enactment of this Act  
 17 shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate  
 18 equal to the annual rate of basic pay for level III of  
 19 the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title  
 20 5, United States Code.

## 21 **Subtitle C—General Provisions**

### 22 **SEC. 131. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION IN SUPPORT** 23 **OF UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United States  
 25 International Communications Agency and the Freedom

1 News Network shall conduct periodic, unclassified con-  
2 sultations with the Department of State, the United  
3 States Agency for International Development, the Depart-  
4 ment of Defense, and the Office of the Director of Na-  
5 tional Intelligence, for the purpose of assessing the fol-  
6 lowing:

7           (1) Progress toward democratization, the devel-  
8           opment of free and independent media outlets, and  
9           the free flow of information in countries that receive  
10          programming and content from the United States  
11          International Communications Agency and the Free-  
12          dom News Network.

13          (2) Foreign languages that have increased or  
14          decreased in strategic importance, and the factors  
15          supporting such assessments.

16          (3) Any other international developments, in-  
17          cluding developments with regional or country-spe-  
18          cific significance, that might be of value in assisting  
19          the United States International Communications  
20          Agency and the Freedom News Network in the de-  
21          velopment of their programming and content.

22          (b) GUIDANCE.—The Board of the United States  
23          International Communications Agency shall use the un-  
24          classified consultations required under subsection (a) as

1 guidance for its distribution and calibration of Federal re-  
 2 sources in support of United States public diplomacy.

3 **SEC. 132. FEDERAL AGENCY ASSISTANCE AND COORDINA-**  
 4 **TION WITH THE UNITED STATES INTER-**  
 5 **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY AND**  
 6 **THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK DURING**  
 7 **INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST SURGES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to a formal request from  
 9 the Chair of the Board of the United States International  
 10 Communications Agency, Federal agency heads shall as-  
 11 sist and coordinate with the Agency to facilitate a tem-  
 12 porary broadcasting surge or enhance transmission capac-  
 13 ity for such a temporary broadcasting surge for the Agen-  
 14 cy, the Freedom News Network, or both.

15 (b) ACTIONS.—In accordance with subsection (a),  
 16 Federal agency heads shall assist or coordinate with the  
 17 United States International Communications Agency by—

18 (1) supplying or facilitating access to, or use  
 19 of—

20 (A) United States Government-owned  
 21 transmission capacity, including the use of  
 22 transmission facilities, equipment, resources,  
 23 and personnel; and



1 (B) other non-transmission-related United  
2 States Government-owned facilities, equipment,  
3 resources, and personnel;

4 (2) communicating and coordinating with for-  
5 eign host governments on behalf of, or in conjunc-  
6 tion with, the Agency or the Freedom News Net-  
7 work;

8 (3) providing, or assisting in the obtaining of,  
9 in-country security services for the safety and pro-  
10 tection of Agency or Freedom News Network per-  
11 sonnel; and

12 (4) providing or facilitating access to any other  
13 United States Government-owned resources.

14 (c) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
15 sion of law, neither Federal agency heads nor their agen-  
16 cies shall receive any reimbursement or compensatory ap-  
17 propriations for complying with implementing this section.

18 **SEC. 133. FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK RIGHT OF FIRST RE-**  
19 **FUSAL IN INSTANCES OF FEDERAL DISPOSAL**  
20 **OF RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCAST**  
21 **TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OR EQUIPMENT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
23 sion of law, it shall be the policy of the United States  
24 International Communications Agency to, in the event it  
25 intends to dispose of any radio or television broadcast

1 transmission facilities or equipment, provide the Freedom  
2 News Network with the right of first refusal with respect  
3 to the acquisition of such facilities and equipment.

4 (b) TRANSFER AND DISPOSAL.—Pursuant to sub-  
5 section (a)—

6 (1) in the event the Freedom News Network is  
7 willing to accept the facilities and equipment re-  
8 ferred to in such subsection, the United States  
9 International Communications Agency shall transfer  
10 to the Freedom News Network such facilities and  
11 equipment at no cost to the Freedom News Net-  
12 work; or

13 (2) in the event the Freedom News Network  
14 opts to not accept such facilities and equipment, the  
15 United States International Communications Agency  
16 may sell such facilities and equipment at market  
17 price, and retain any revenue from such sales.

18 (c) RULES REGARDING CERTAIN FUNDS.—Pursuant  
19 to subsection (b)(2), any revenues that the United States  
20 International Communications Agency shall derive from  
21 such sales shall be used entirely for the purposes or re-  
22 search, development, and deployment of innovative broad-  
23 casting or circumvention technology.

1 **SEC. 134. REPEAL OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
 2 **BROADCASTING ACT OF 1994.**

3 The United States International Broadcasting Act of  
 4 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.; title III of Public Law 103–  
 5 236) is repealed (and the items relating to title III in the  
 6 table of contents of such Public Law are struck).

7 **SEC. 135. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This title shall take effect on the date that is 180  
 9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS**  
 11 **NETWORK**

12 **SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that RFE/RL, Incor-  
 14 porated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broad-  
 15 casting Networks, Incorporated share a common mission  
 16 with distinct geographic foci, and should therefore be  
 17 merged into a single organization, with distinct marketing  
 18 brands to provide the news and related programming and  
 19 content in countries where free media are not established.

20 **Subtitle A—Consolidation of**  
 21 **Existing Grantee Organizations**

22 **SEC. 211. FORMATION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK**  
 23 **FROM EXISTING GRANTEES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—When the conditions specified in  
 25 section 110 are satisfied, the Freedom News Network,  
 26 comprised of the consolidation of RFE/RL Incorporated,

1 Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
2 works, Incorporated, shall exist to carry out all inter-  
3 national broadcasting activities supported by the United  
4 States Government, in accordance with sections 212 and  
5 213.

6 (b) MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING INDIVIDUAL  
7 GRANTEE BRANDS.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free  
8 Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
9 porated shall remain brand names under which news and  
10 related programming and content may be disseminated by  
11 the Freedom News Network. Additional brands may be  
12 created as necessary.

13 **SEC. 212. MISSION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

14 The Freedom News Network established under sec-  
15 tion 211 shall—

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

20 (2) strengthen civil societies by promoting  
21 democratic values and promoting equality and the  
22 rights of the individual, including for marginalized  
23 groups, such as women and minorities;

24 (3) help countries improve their indigenous ca-  
25 pacity to enhance media professionalism and inde-

1       pendence, and develop partnerships with local media  
2       outlets, as appropriate; and

3           (4) promote access to uncensored sources of in-  
4       formation, especially via the internet, and use all ef-  
5       fective and efficient mediums of communication to  
6       reach target audiences.

7   **SEC. 213. STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE FREEDOM**  
8                   **NEWS NETWORK.**

9       The broadcasting of the Freedom News Network  
10   shall—

11           (1) be consistent with the broad foreign policy  
12       objectives of the United States;

13           (2) be consistent with the international tele-  
14       communications policies and treaty obligations of the  
15       United States;

16           (3) be conducted in accordance with the highest  
17       professional standards of broadcast journalism;

18           (4) be based on reliable information about its  
19       potential audience;

20           (5) be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-  
21       nificant audience; and

22           (6) prioritize programming to populations in  
23       countries without independent indigenous media out-  
24       lets.

1       **Subtitle B—Organization of the**  
2               **Freedom News Network**

3       **SEC. 221. GOVERNANCE OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-**  
4               **WORK.**

5           (a) BOARD OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—  
6       A board shall oversee the Freedom News Network and  
7       consist of nine individuals with a demonstrated back-  
8       ground in media or the promotion of democracy and expe-  
9       rience in measuring media impact.

10          (b) COMPOSITION OF FIRST BOARD OF THE FREE-  
11       DOM NEWS NETWORK.—Not later than 90 days after the  
12       date of the enactment of this Act, the Presidents of RFE/  
13       RL Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East  
14       Broadcasting Networks shall—

15               (1) identify, in consultation with the appro-  
16               priate congressional committees, candidates for the  
17               first board of the Freedom News Network;

18               (2) direct the appointment of board members;  
19               and

20               (3) select the first chair of the board of the  
21       Freedom News Network.

22          (c) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION REGARDING  
23       THE FIRST BOARD OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-  
24       WORK.—The individuals appointed pursuant to subsection  
25       (b) shall serve as members of the first board of the Free-

1 dom News Network unless a joint resolution of disapproval  
2 is enacted.

3 (d) OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST BOARD OF THE  
4 FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The board of the Freedom  
6 News Network shall have nine members charged  
7 with the sole responsibility to operate the Freedom  
8 News Network within the legal jurisdiction of its  
9 state of incorporation. The board of the Freedom  
10 New Network shall exercise due diligence, and exe-  
11 cute its fiduciary duties to the corporation without  
12 conflicts of interest and consistent with section 212.  
13 At no time may the United States International  
14 Communications Agency add requirements to a  
15 grant agreement with the Freedom News Network  
16 that could be construed as inappropriate supervision,  
17 oversight, or management in accordance with section  
18 108(d). Nothing in this title may be construed to  
19 make the Freedom News Network an agency, estab-  
20 lishment, or instrumentality of the United States  
21 Government, or to make the members of the board  
22 of Freedom News Network, or the officers or em-  
23 ployees of Freedom News Network, officers of em-  
24 ployees of the United States Government.

1           (2) BYLAWS.—The first board of the Freedom  
2       News Network shall write the bylaws of the organi-  
3       zation.

4           (3) OVERSIGHT.—The Freedom News Network  
5       shall be subject to the appropriate oversight proce-  
6       dures of Congress.

7           (4) TERM LIMITS.—The board members of the  
8       first board of the Freedom News Network may not  
9       serve more than a three-year term, and shall be re-  
10      placed in accordance with the bylaws referred to in  
11      paragraph (2) and the succession process described  
12      in paragraph (5).

13          (5) SUCCESSION OF BOARD MEMBERS.—The  
14      board members of the first board of the Freedom  
15      News Network and all subsequent boards shall fill  
16      vacancies on the board due to death, resignation, re-  
17      moval, or term expiration through an election proc-  
18      ess described in the bylaws referred to in paragraph  
19      (2) and in accordance with the principle of a “self-  
20      replenishing” body.

21          (6) SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.—The  
22      board members of the Freedom News Network may  
23      not be current employees or officers of RFE/RL In-  
24      corporated, Radio Free Asia, the Middle East



1        Broadcasting Networks, or the United States Inter-  
2        national Communications Agency.

3        (e) COMPENSATION OF BOARD AND OFFICERS OF  
4 THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—Members of the board  
5 of the Freedom News Network may not receive any fee,  
6 salary, or remuneration of any kind for their service as  
7 members, except that such members may be reimbursed  
8 for reasonable expenses, such as board-related travel, in-  
9 curred with approval of the board upon presentation of  
10 vouchers. No officers of the Freedom News Network, other  
11 than the Chief Executive Officer, shall be eligible to re-  
12 ceive compensation at a rate in excess of the annual rate  
13 of basic pay for level I on the Executive Schedule under  
14 section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

15        (f) ABOLISHMENT OF EXISTING BOARDS.—The  
16 boards of directors of RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free  
17 Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
18 porated in existence on the day before the date of the en-  
19 actment of this Act shall be abolished on the date of the  
20 first official meeting of the first board of the Freedom  
21 News Network.

22        (g) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The Chief Execu-  
23 tive Officer of the Freedom News Network shall serve at  
24 the pleasure of the board of the Freedom News Network,  
25 and be responsible for the day-to-day management and op-

1 erations of the Freedom News Network, including the se-  
2 lection of individuals for management positions, ensuring  
3 compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and  
4 circulars, providing strategic vision for the execution of its  
5 mission as specified in section 212, and carrying out such  
6 other responsibilities as set forth in the laws of the State  
7 of its incorporation.

8 (h) PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES.—  
9

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the first official meeting of the first  
12 board of the Freedom News Network, the chair of  
13 the board of the Freedom News Network shall submit a report to, and consult with, the appropriate  
14 congressional committees on the plan to consolidate  
15 RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the  
16 Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated  
17 into a single non-Federal grantee organization.  
18

19 (2) COMPONENTS.—The consolidation plan referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the following  
20 components:  
21

22 (A) The location and distribution of employees, including administrative, managerial,  
23 and technical staff, of the Freedom News Net-  
24

1 work that will be located within and outside the  
2 metropolitan area of Washington, DC.

3 (B) An organizational chart identifying the  
4 managerial and supervisory lines of authority  
5 among all employees of the Freedom News Net-  
6 work, including the members of the board and  
7 chair.

8 (3) TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later  
9 than three years after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act, the chair of the board of the Freedom  
11 News Network shall fully implement the consolida-  
12 tion plan referred to in paragraph (1) after consulta-  
13 tion with the appropriate congressional committees.

14 (4) REPORT.—Not later than five years after  
15 the date on which initial funding is provided for the  
16 purpose of operating the Freedom News Network,  
17 the chair of the board of the Freedom News Net-  
18 work shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
19 committees a report that details the following:

20 (A) Whether the Freedom News Network  
21 is technically sound and cost-effective.

22 (B) Whether the Freedom News Network  
23 consistently meets the standards for quality and  
24 impact established by this title.

1 (C) Whether the Freedom News Network  
2 is receiving a sufficient audience to warrant its  
3 continued operation.

4 (D) The extent to which the Freedom  
5 News Network's programming and content is  
6 already being received by the target audience  
7 from other credible indigenous or external  
8 sources.

9 (E) The extent to which the broad foreign  
10 policy and national security interests of the  
11 United States are being served by maintaining  
12 operations of the Freedom News Network.

13 **SEC. 222. BUDGET OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The annual budget of the Free-  
15 dom News Network shall consist of the following:

16 (1) A grant described in section 110, consisting  
17 of the total grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio  
18 Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
19 works, Incorporated before the date of the enact-  
20 ment of this Act.

21 (2) Any grants or transfers from other Federal  
22 agencies.

23 (3) Other funds described in subsection (b).

24 (b) OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.—The Freedom  
25 News Network may, to the extent authorized by its board

1 and in accordance with applicable laws and the mission  
2 of the Freedom News Network under section 212 and eli-  
3 gible broadcast areas under section 6, collect and utilize  
4 non-Federal funds, except that the Freedom News Net-  
5 work may not accept funds from the following:

6 (1) Any foreign governments or foreign govern-  
7 ment officials.

8 (2) Any agents, representatives, or surrogates  
9 of any foreign government or foreign government of-  
10 ficial.

11 (3) Any foreign-owned corporations or any sub-  
12 sidiaries of any foreign-owned corporation, regard-  
13 less of whether such subsidiary is United States-  
14 owned.

15 (4) Any foreign national or individual who is  
16 not either a citizen or a legal permanent resident of  
17 the United States.

18 (c) ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE FREEDOM  
19 NEWS NETWORK.—The Freedom News Network shall  
20 submit to the appropriate congressional committees and  
21 the United States International Communications Agency  
22 an annual strategic plan to satisfy the requirements speci-  
23 fied in section 110. Each such strategic plan shall outline  
24 the following:

1           (1) The strategic goals and objectives of the  
2       Freedom News Network for the upcoming fiscal  
3       year.

4           (2) The alignment of the Freedom News Net-  
5       work's resources with the strategic goals and objec-  
6       tives referred to in paragraph (1).

7           (3) Clear benchmarks that establish the  
8       progress made towards achieving the strategic goals  
9       and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

10          (4) A plan to monitor and evaluate the success  
11       of the Freedom News Network's broadcasting ef-  
12       forts.

13          (5) A reflective analysis on the activities on the  
14       past fiscal year.

15          (6) Any changes to facility leases, contracts, or  
16       ownership that would result in the relocation of staff  
17       or personnel.

18          (7) Any changes to broadcast languages, includ-  
19       ing the transfer of language services to the Freedom  
20       News Network from the United States International  
21       Communications Agency, or to an organization other  
22       than the Freedom New Network.

23       (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24       gress that administrative and managerial costs for oper-  
25       ation of the Freedom News Network should be kept to

1 a minimum and, to the maximum extent feasible, should  
2 not exceed the costs that would have been incurred if  
3 RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle  
4 East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated had been oper-  
5 ated as independent grantees or as a Federal entity within  
6 the Voice of America.

7 **SEC. 223. ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGEN-**  
8 **CIES.**

9 (a) **SURPLUS PROPERTIES.**—In order to assist the  
10 Freedom News Network in carrying out the provisions of  
11 this title, any agency or instrumentality of the United  
12 States may sell, loan, lease, or grant property (including  
13 interests therein) to the Freedom News Network as nec-  
14 essary.

15 (b) **FACILITIES AND BROADCASTING INFRASTRUC-**  
16 **TURE.**—The United States International Communications  
17 Agency and the Freedom News Network shall negotiate  
18 an International Cooperative Administrative Support  
19 Service (ICASS) agreement or memorandum of under-  
20 standing permitting the continued use of technological in-  
21 frastructure for broadcasting and information dissemina-  
22 tion, except that the Freedom News Network may choose  
23 to procure such services through negotiated contracts with  
24 private-sector providers.

1 **SEC. 224. REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR**  
2 **GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE;**  
3 **AUDITS BY GAO.**

4 (a) IG REPORTS.—The Inspector General of the De-  
5 partment of State shall, as appropriate, submit to the ap-  
6 propriate congressional committees reports on manage-  
7 ment practices of the Freedom News Network, including  
8 financial reports on unobligated balances.

9 (b) GAO AUDITS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Financial transactions of the  
11 Freedom News Network, as such relate to functions  
12 carried out under this Act, may be audited by the  
13 Government Accountability Office in accordance with  
14 such principles and procedures and under such rules  
15 and regulations as may be prescribed by the Comp-  
16 troller General of the United States. Any such audit  
17 shall be conducted at the place or places where ac-  
18 counts of the Freedom News Network are normally  
19 kept.

20 (2) ACCESS.—Representatives of the Govern-  
21 ment Accountability Office shall have access to all  
22 books, accounts, records, reports, files, papers, and  
23 property belonging to or in use by the Freedom  
24 News Network pertaining to the financial trans-  
25 actions referred to in paragraph (1) and necessary  
26 to facilitate an audit in accordance with such para-



1 graph. All such books, accounts, records, reports,  
2 files, papers, and property of the Freedom News  
3 Network shall remain in the possession and custody  
4 of the Freedom News Network.

5 (c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any  
6 other provision of law, one percent of the funds made  
7 available by the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency shall be transferred to the Inspector General  
9 of the Department of State to cover the expenses of car-  
10 rying out the activities of the Inspector General under this  
11 section.

12 **SEC. 225. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES INFORMA-**  
13 **TION AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF**  
14 **1948.**

15 The United States Information and Educational Ex-  
16 change Act of 1948 is amended—

17 (1) in title V (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.), by strik-  
18 ing “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-  
19 ing “United States International Communications  
20 Agency” each place it appears;

21 (2) by amending paragraph (1) of section  
22 501(b) (22 U.S.C. 1461(b)) to read as follows:

23 “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the  
24 Secretary and the United States International Com-  
25 munications Agency may, upon request and reim-

1       bursement of the reasonable costs incurred in ful-  
2       filling such a request, make available, in the United  
3       States, motion pictures, films, video, audio, and  
4       other materials disseminated abroad pursuant to  
5       this Act. Any reimbursement pursuant to this para-  
6       graph shall be credited to the applicable appropria-  
7       tion account of the Department of State or the  
8       United States International Communications Agen-  
9       cy, as appropriate. The Secretary and the United  
10      States International Communications Agency shall  
11      issue necessary regulations.”;

12           (3) by repealing sections 504 and 505 (22  
13      U.S.C. 1464 and 1464a);

14           (4) by redesignating section 506 (22 U.S.C.  
15      1464b) as section 504;

16           (5) in section 504, as so redesignated, in sub-  
17      section (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
18      by striking “Board” each place it appears and in-  
19      serting “Agency”;

20           (6) in clause (iii) of section 604(d)(1)(A) (22  
21      U.S.C. 1469(d)(1)(A)), by striking “Broadcasting  
22      Board of Governors” and inserting “United States  
23      International Communications Agency”;

24           (7) in paragraph (3) of section 801 (22 U.S.C.  
25      1471), by striking “Director of the United States

1 Information Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive  
2 Officer of the United States International Commu-  
3 nications Agency”;

4 (8) in subsection (b) of section 802 (22 U.S.C.  
5 1472)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), in the matter  
7 preceding clause (i), by striking “Director of  
8 the United States Information Agency” and in-  
9 serting “Chief Executive Officer of the United  
10 States International Communications Agency”;

11 and

12 (B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking  
13 “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-  
14 ing “United States International Communica-  
15 tions Agency”;

16 (9) in paragraph (1) of section 804 (22 U.S.C.  
17 1474), by striking “Director of the United States  
18 Information Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive  
19 Officer of the United States International Commu-  
20 nications Agency”;

21 (10) in section 810(b) (22 U.S.C. 1475e(b))—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
23 by striking “United States Information Agen-  
24 cy” and inserting “United States International  
25 Communications Agency”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Inter-  
2 national Broadcasting Bureau” and inserting  
3 “United States International Communications  
4 Agency”; and  
5 (11) in subsection (a) of section 1011 (22  
6 U.S.C. 1442), by striking “Director of the United  
7 States Information Agency” and inserting “Chief  
8 Executive Officer of the United States International  
9 Communications Agency”.

## 10 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS** 11 **PROVISIONS**

### 12 **SEC. 301. PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL** 13 **SECURITY OBJECTIVES.**

14 The Chief Executive Officer of the United States  
15 International Communications Agency and the Chief Ex-  
16 ecutive Officer of the Freedom News Network shall each  
17 establish procedures to vet and monitor employees of each  
18 such agency for affiliations to terrorist organizations, for-  
19 eign governments, or agents of foreign governments to  
20 protect against espionage, sabotage, foreign propaganda  
21 messaging, and other subversive activities that undermine  
22 United States national security objectives.

○