

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 193

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2006

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Broadcast Decency
5 Enforcement Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR OBSCENE, INDECENT,**
2 **AND PROFANE BROADCASTS.**

3 Section 503(b)(2) of the Communications Act of
4 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
6 (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
8 lowing new subparagraph:

9 “(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if the viola-
10 tor is—

11 “(i)(I) a broadcast station licensee or permittee;
12 or

13 “(II) an applicant for any broadcast license,
14 permit, certificate, or other instrument or authoriza-
15 tion issued by the Commission; and

16 “(ii) determined by the Commission under
17 paragraph (1) to have broadcast obscene, indecent,
18 or profane language, the amount of any forfeiture
19 penalty determined under this subsection shall not
20 exceed \$325,000 for each violation or each day of a
21 continuing violation, except that the amount as-
22 sessed for any continuing violation shall not exceed
23 a total of \$3,000,000 for any single act or failure to
24 act.”; and

1 (3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by
2 paragraph (1), by striking “subparagraph (A) or
3 (B)” and inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), or (C)”.

Passed the Senate May 18, 2006.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.