

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2183

AN ACT

United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

2 (a) Congress finds and declares the following:

3 (1) The Russian Government has deliberately
4 blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored
5 sources of information and has provided alternative
6 news and information that is both inaccurate and in-
7 flammatory;

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

13 (3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian
14 people, especially those people located in the eastern
15 regions and Crimea, are not being accurately rep-
16 resented in Russian dominated mass media;

17 (4) Russian forces have seized more than five
18 television stations in Crimea and taken over trans-
19 missions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda
20 format; this increase in programming augments the
21 already robust pro-Russian programming to
22 Ukraine;

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

1 (b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Lib-
2 erty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America
3 service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

4 (1) provide news and information that is acces-
5 sible, credible, and accurate;

6 (2) emphasize investigative and analytical jour-
7 nalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinforma-
8 tion provided by Russian or pro-Russian media out-
9 lets;

10 (3) prioritize programming to areas where ac-
11 cess to uncensored sources of information is limited
12 or non-existent, especially populations serviced by
13 Russian supported media outlets;

14 (4) increase the number of reporters and orga-
15 nizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in
16 Crimea;

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

20 (6) take necessary preparatory steps to con-
21 tinue and increase programming and content that
22 promotes democracy and government transparency
23 in Russia.

1 (c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated,
2 and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neigh-
3 boring regions shall—

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

8 (2) prioritize news and information that directly
9 contributes to the target audiences' understanding of
10 political and economic developments in Ukraine and
11 Moldova, including countering misinformation that
12 may originate from other news outlets, especially
13 Russian supported news outlets;

14 (3) provide programming content 24 hours a
15 day, seven days a week to target populations, using
16 all available and effective distribution outlets, includ-
17 ing—

18 (A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original
19 television and video content in Ukrainian, Rus-
20 sian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live
21 video streaming coverage of breaking news, to
22 be distributed on satellite, digital, and through
23 regional television affiliates by the Voice of
24 America; and

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

6 (4) expand the use, audience, and audience en-
7 gagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms
8 by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of Amer-
9 ica, including through Internet-based social net-
10 working platforms; and

11 (5) partner with private sector broadcasters and
12 affiliates to seek and start co-production for new,
13 original content, when possible, to increase distribu-
14 tion.

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addi-
17 tion to funds otherwise made available for such purposes,
18 up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the
19 Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services
20 of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for
21 the purpose of bolstering existing United States program-
22 ming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions,
23 and increasing programming capacity and jamming cir-
24 cumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to
25 service.

1 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of
3 Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Af-
4 fairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropria-
6 tions of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase
7 broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

Passed the Senate March 27, 2014.

Attest:

Secretary.

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