

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 125

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an ethnic and minority affairs section.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. ENGEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an ethnic and minority affairs section.

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 “Ethnic and Minority
5 Bias Clearinghouse Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ETHNIC AND MINORITY AF-**
7 **FAIRS SECTION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Communications
9 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 155) is amended by inserting after
10 subsection (e) the following new subsection:

1 “(f)(1) There shall be established within the Commis-
2 sion an ethnic and minority affairs section. Such ethnic
3 and minority affairs section shall—

4 “(A) establish a clearinghouse for complaints,
5 grievances, and opinions relating to radio, television,
6 and cable television broadcast programming and
7 their depiction of ethnic and minority groups;

8 “(B) collect, analyze, and prepare information
9 from public and private agencies relating to the por-
10 trayal of ethnic and minority groups by radio, tele-
11 vision, and cable television broadcast programming,
12 and furnish such information, upon request and
13 without charge, to public and private agencies that
14 serve the needs and interests of such groups;

15 “(C) conduct an annual conference which shall
16 be designed to focus public attention upon the im-
17 ages of ethnic and minority groups depicted by
18 radio, television, and cable television broadcast pro-
19 gramming, discuss the impact which these images
20 have on such groups, and encourage the participa-
21 tion of such individuals and public and private orga-
22 nizations that serve the interests of such groups;
23 and

24 “(D) prepare and transmit to Congress an an-
25 nual report which details the activities of the ethnic

1 and minority affairs section, including a compilation
2 of all complaints, grievances, and opinions filed
3 under paragraph (1).

4 “(2) The chairman of the Commission shall establish
5 an advisory committee to assist the ethnic and minority
6 affairs section in implementing the annual conference pur-
7 suant to paragraph (1)(C). The advisory committee shall
8 be composed of 15 members chosen from among radio and
9 television broadcasters and program producers, educators,
10 representatives from the mental health community, and
11 leaders from ethnic and minority communities.”.

12 (b) TIME LIMIT.—Not later than 90 days after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall estab-
14 lish the ethnic and minority affairs section referred to in
15 section 5(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amend-
16 ed by this Act.

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