

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2874

To authorize appropriations for international broadcasting operations and capital improvements, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

Mr. BIDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for international broadcasting operations and capital improvements, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Initiative 911 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) Open communication of information and
8 ideas among peoples of the world contributes to
9 international peace and stability, and that the pro-

1 motion of such communication is important to the
2 national security of the United States.

3 (2) The United States needs to improve its
4 communication of information and ideas to people in
5 foreign countries, particularly in countries with sig-
6 nificant Muslim populations.

7 (3) A significant expansion of United States
8 international broadcasting would provide a cost-ef-
9 fective means of improving communication with
10 countries with significant Muslim populations by
11 providing news, information, and analysis, as well as
12 cultural programming, through both radio and tele-
13 vision broadcasts.

14 (4) The report of the National Commission on
15 Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States stated
16 that, "Recognizing that Arab and Muslim audiences
17 rely on satellite television and radio, the government
18 has begun some promising initiatives in television
19 and radio broadcasting to the Arab world, Iran, and
20 Afghanistan. These efforts are beginning to reach
21 large audiences. The Broadcasting Board of Gov-
22 ernors has asked for much larger resources. It
23 should get them."

1 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL AUTHORITY FOR SURGE CAPACITY.**

2 The United States International Broadcasting Act of
3 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 316. SPECIAL AUTHORITY FOR SURGE CAPACITY.**

6 “(a) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President de-
8 termines it to be important to the national interests
9 of the United States and so certifies to the appro-
10 priate congressional committees, the President, on
11 such terms and conditions as the President may de-
12 termine, is authorized to direct any department,
13 agency, or other entity of the United States to fur-
14 nish the Broadcasting Board of Governors with such
15 assistance as may be necessary to provide inter-
16 national broadcasting activities of the United States
17 with a surge capacity to support United States for-
18 eign policy objectives during a crisis abroad.

19 “(2) SUPERSEDES EXISTING LAW.—The au-
20 thority of paragraph (1) supersedes any other provi-
21 sion of law.

22 “(3) SURGE CAPACITY DEFINED.—In this sub-
23 section, the term ‘surge capacity’ means the finan-
24 cial and technical resources necessary to carry out
25 broadcasting activities in a geographical area during
26 a crisis.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective October 1, 2004,
3 there are authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-
4 dent such amounts as may be necessary for the
5 President to carry out this section, except that no
6 such amount may be appropriated which, when
7 added to amounts previously appropriated for such
8 purpose but not yet obligated, would cause such
9 amounts to exceed \$25,000,000.

10 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts ap-
11 propriated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
12 priations in this subsection are authorized to remain
13 available until expended.

14 “(3) DESIGNATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
15 Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization
16 of appropriations in this subsection may be referred
17 to as the ‘United States International Broadcasting
18 Surge Capacity Fund’.”.

19 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

20 In each annual report submitted under section
21 305(a)(9) of the United States International Broadcasting
22 Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6204(a)(9)) after the date of en-
23 actment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors
24 shall give special attention to reporting on the activities
25 carried out under this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise
 3 available for such purposes, the following amounts are au-
 4 thorized to be appropriated to carry out United States
 5 Government broadcasting activities under the United
 6 States Information and Educational Exchange Act of
 7 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), the United States Inter-
 8 national Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et
 9 seq.), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act
 10 of 1998 (as enacted in division of G of the Omnibus Con-
 11 solidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations
 12 Act, 1999; Public Law 107–277), and this Act, and to
 13 carry out other authorities in law consistent with such
 14 purposes:

15 (1) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPER-
 16 ATIONS.—For “International Broadcasting Oper-
 17 ations”, \$497,000,000 for the fiscal year 2005.

18 (2) BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—
 19 For “Broadcasting Capital Improvements”,
 20 \$70,000,000 for the fiscal year 2005.

21 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
 22 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in
 23 this section are authorized to remain available until ex-
 24 pended.

○