

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 971

To require the Federal Communications Commission to initiate rulemaking proceedings to improve multilingual radio broadcasting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 1993

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. MANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to initiate rulemaking proceedings to improve multilingual radio broadcasting, 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 “Multilingual Radio
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) there are large populations of United States
9 residents whose assimilation as citizens would be

1 eased by access to information on employment op-
2 portunities, cultural affairs, governmental services,
3 and general public affairs;

4 (2) radio broadcasting provides an accessible
5 and convenient method to meet this public need;

6 (3) there are no current assurances of future
7 broadcast services of this nature to such multi-
8 lingual, multiethnic populations; and

9 (4) authority should be granted to the Federal
10 Communications Commission to enable it to estab-
11 lish at least three demonstration frequencies for the
12 purpose of providing multilingual, multiethnic broad-
13 casting services to the substantial diverse popu-
14 lations of the designated metropolitan areas.

15 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING ON MULTILINGUAL BROADCASTING**

16 **DEMONSTRATION FREQUENCIES REQUIRED.**

17 The Federal Communications Commission shall,
18 within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
19 begin a rulemaking proceeding to prescribe such regula-
20 tions as may be necessary—

21 (1) to establish demonstration frequencies for
22 the purpose of providing multilingual amplitude
23 modulation radio broadcasting services to large met-
24 ropolitan areas with large multilingual populations;

1 (2) to require that such a demonstration fre-
2 quency be licensed in the New York City metropoli-
3 tan area;

4 (3) to create other demonstration frequencies, if
5 possible, for other cities in which the Commission by
6 rule finds that large multilingual populations would
7 be benefited by multilingual radio broadcasting;

8 (4) to make such frequencies available for ex-
9 panded services through the use of that portion of
10 the amplitude modulated radio band between 1605
11 kHz and 1705kHz;

12 (5) to require that the licensee of such a multi-
13 lingual operation—

14 (A) to devote at least 75 percent of each
15 broadcast day to programming in at least 5 lan-
16 guages other than English;

17 (B) to program in at least 20 languages
18 other than English during any broadcast week;
19 and

20 (C) to carry at least one hour of English
21 language instructional programming during
22 each broadcast day.

23 **SEC. 4. LICENSE AWARD.**

24 The Commission shall establish the demonstration
25 frequencies described in section 3 as not-for-profit oper-

1 ations and award the license for such frequencies by com-
2 parative hearing to nonprofit groups with substantial ex-
3 perience in serving the unique needs of multilingual and
4 multiethnic communities. The public service orientation of
5 this broadcast service shall be reflected in the experience
6 of the licensee. Not-for-profit status and experience with
7 multilingual and multiethnic broadcasting shall be given
8 weight equal to any other comparative criteria used by the
9 Commission.

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