

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3104

AN ACT

To permanently authorize Radio Free Asia, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Radio Free Asia (referred to in this Act as
4 “RFA”)—

5 (A) was authorized under section 309 of
6 the United States International Broadcasting
7 Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208);

8 (B) was incorporated as a private, non-
9 profit corporation in March 1996 in the hope
10 that its operations would soon be obviated by
11 the global advancement of democracy; and

12 (C) is headquartered in Washington, DC,
13 with additional offices in Bangkok, Hong Kong,
14 Phnom Penh, Seoul, Ankara, and Taipei.

15 (2) RFA broadcasts serve as substitutes for in-
16 digenous free media in regions lacking free media
17 outlets.

18 (3) The mission of RFA is “to provide accurate
19 and timely news and information to Asian countries
20 whose governments prohibit access to a free press”
21 in order to enable informed decisionmaking by the
22 people within Asia.

23 (4) RFA provides daily broadcasts of news,
24 commentary, analysis, and cultural programming to
25 Asian countries in several languages, including—

26 (A) 12 hours per day in Mandarin;

1 (B) 8 hours per day in 3 Tibetan dialects,
2 Uke, Kham, and Amdo;

3 (C) 4 hours per day in Korean and Bur-
4 mese;

5 (D) 2 hours per day in Cantonese, Viet-
6 namese, Laotian, Khmer (Cambodian), and
7 Uyghur; and

8 (E) 1½ hours per week in Wu (local
9 Shanghai dialect).

10 (5) The governments of the countries targeted
11 for these broadcasts have consistently denied and
12 blocked attempts at Medium Wave and FM trans-
13 missions into their countries, forcing RFA to rely on
14 Shortwave broadcasts and the Internet.

15 (6) RFA has provided continuous online news
16 to its Asian audiences since 2004, although some
17 countries—

18 (A) routinely and aggressively block RFA’s
19 website;

20 (B) monitor access to RFA’s website; and

21 (C) discourage online users by making it il-
22 legal to access RFA’s website.

23 (7) Despite these attempts, RFA has success-
24 fully managed to reach its online audiences through

1 proxies, cutting-edge software, and active republica-
2 tion and repostings by its audience.

3 (8) RFA also provides forums for local opinions
4 and experiences through message boards, podcasts,
5 web logs (blogs), cell phone-distributed newscasts,
6 and new media, including Facebook, Flickr, Twitter,
7 and YouTube.

8 (9) Freedom House has documented that free-
9 dom of the press is in decline in nearly every region
10 of the world, particularly in Asia, where none of the
11 countries served by RFA have increased their free-
12 dom of the press during the past 5 years.

13 (10) In fiscal year 2010, RFA is operating on
14 a \$37,000,000 budget, less than \$400,000 of which
15 is available to fund Internet censorship circumven-
16 tion.

17 (11) Congress currently provides grant funding
18 for RFA's operations on a fiscal year basis.

19 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

20 It is the sense of the Senate that—

21 (1) public access to timely, uncensored, and ac-
22 curate information is imperative for promoting gov-
23 ernment accountability and the protection of human
24 rights;

1 (2) Radio Free Asia provides a vital voice to
2 people in Asia;

3 (3) some of the governments in Asia spend mil-
4 lions of dollars each year to jam RFA’s shortwave,
5 block its Internet sites;

6 (4) Congress should provide additional funding
7 to RFA and the other entities overseen by the
8 Broadcasting Board of Governors for—

9 (A) Internet censorship circumvention; and

10 (B) enhancement of their cyber security ef-
11 forts; and

12 (5) permanently authorizing funding for Radio
13 Free Asia would—

14 (A) reflect the concern that media censor-
15 ship and press restrictions in the countries
16 served by RFA have increased since RFA was
17 established; and

18 (B) send a powerful signal of our Nation’s
19 support for free press in Asia and throughout
20 the world.

21 **SEC. 3. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RADIO FREE**
22 **ASIA.**

23 Section 309 of the United States International
24 Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “, and shall
2 further specify that funds to carry out the activities
3 of Radio Free Asia may not be available after Sep-
4 tember 30, 2010”;

5 (2) by striking subsection (f);

6 (3) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as
7 subsection (f) and (g), respectively; and

8 (4) in subsection (f), as redesignated—

9 (A) by striking “The Board” and inserting
10 the following:

11 “(1) NOTIFICATION.—The Board”;

12 (B) by striking “before entering” and in-
13 serting the following: “before—

14 “(A) entering”;

15 (C) by striking “Radio Free Asia.” and in-
16 serting the following: “Radio Free Asia; or

17 “(B) entering into any agreements in re-
18 gard to the utilization of Radio Free Asia
19 transmitters, equipment, or other resources that
20 will significantly reduce the broadcasting activi-
21 ties of Radio Free Asia.”;

22 (D) by striking “The Chairman” and in-
23 serting the following:

24 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Chairman”; and

1 (E) by inserting “or Radio Free Asia
2 broadcasting activities” before the period at the
3 end.

Passed the Senate June 25, 2010.

Attest:

Secretary.

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