

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1837

By: Dahm

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to media outlets; creating the Common Sense Freedom of Press Control Act; providing short title; stating purpose; requiring licensure for certain individuals and companies; providing requirements for licensure; defining terms; providing for promulgation of rules; authorizing Corporation Commission to provide licensure; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 208 of Title 17, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Common Sense Freedom of Press Control Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 209 of Title 17, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. To ensure the safety of the general public and avoid potential abuse of the freedom of the press, any media outlet that includes opinions at any time in its print, broadcast, or other

1 means of distribution shall do each of the following before any
2 articles, stories, opinions, news, videos, or other media are
3 distributed to the public:

4 1. Each individual reporter, producer, writer, editor, or any
5 other employee involved in the production of content distributed by
6 a media outlet is hereby required to:

- 7 a. complete a criminal background check conducted by the
8 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation,
- 9 b. receive a license as prescribed by the Corporation
10 Commission as provided in subsection C of this
11 section,
- 12 c. complete a propaganda-free safety training course of
13 no less than eight (8) hours as prescribed by the
14 State Department of Education, which shall be
15 developed in coordination with PragerU,
- 16 d. provide proof of liability insurance no less than One
17 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), and
- 18 e. submit to quarterly drug testing for illicit
19 substances to be administered by the Oklahoma State
20 Bureau of Investigation; and

21 2. Each company, including parent companies and media groups,
22 that owns the media outlet which employs the individuals required to
23 submit to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall:
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- a. require all employees to complete a propaganda-free safety training course of no less than eight (8) hours as prescribed by the State Department of Education, which shall be developed in coordination with PragerU,
- b. receive a license as prescribed by the Corporation Commission as provided in subsection C of this section,
- c. provide proof of liability insurance no less than Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00), and
- d. provide a prominent disclaimer before each media presentation, broadcast, video, or printed publication stating: "WARNING: THIS ENTITY IS KNOWN TO PROVIDE PROPAGANDA. CONSUMING PROPAGANDA MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR HEALTH AND HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC."

Only video opinions shall be required to provide the disclaimer provided for in subparagraph d of paragraph 2 of this subsection at the bottom of the screen for the duration of the program.

B. As used in this section:

1. "Media outlet" shall mean national broadcasters ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, NPR, and AP, and any local affiliates of such networks; and

2. "Video opinion programs" means presentations consistently containing opinion rather than originating from a definitive source of information such as The View.

1 C. The Corporation Commission shall promulgate rules necessary
2 to implement the licensing required by this section for media
3 outlets, as follows:

4 1. A license pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection A of this
5 section shall be a fee no less than Two Hundred Ninety Dollars
6 (\$290.00) for a five-year license nor less than Five Hundred Eighty
7 Dollars (\$580.00) for a ten-year license; and

8 2. A license pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection A of this
9 section shall be a fee of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
10 (\$250,000.00) to be renewed annually.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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