

SAMOA

Arrangement of Provisions

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|---|--|
| 1. Short title and commencement | 10. Functions and duties of the Regulator regarding competition |
| 2. Interpretation | 11. Repeal of sections |
| 3. Objectives of this Act | 12. Determination of abuse of dominance and anti-competitive practices |
| 4. Insertion of new provision | 13. Remedies for abuse of dominance and anti-competitive practices |
| 5. Appointment of Regulator | 14. Transfers of control of service providers |
| 6. Office of the Broadcasting Regulator | 15. Appeal against surcharge |
| 7. Part III on Broadcasting Tribunal | 16. Consequential amendments |
| 8. Appeal of orders of the Regulator to the Broadcasting Tribunal | |
| 9. Broadcasting policies | |

2016, No. 7

AN ACT to amend the Broadcasting Act 2010 (“the Principal Act”).
[09th February 2016]

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Assembly of Samoa in Parliament assembled as follows:

1. Short title and commencement-(1) This Act may be cited as the Broadcasting Amendment Act 2016.

(2) This Act commences on the date of assent by the Head of State.

2. Interpretation - In section 2 of the Principal Act:

(a) for the definition of “broadcasting service” substitute:

““broadcasting service” means a service that delivers television programs or radio programs to a person having equipment appropriate for receiving that service, whether the delivery uses the radio frequency spectrum, cable, optical fibre, satellite or any other means of a combination of those means, but does not include:

- (a) a service (including a teletext service) that provides no more than data, or no more than text (with or without associated still images); or
- (b) a service that makes programs available on demand on a point-to-point basis, including a dial-up service;”;

(b) insert in alphabetical order:

““Broadcasting Tribunal” means the Telecommunications Tribunal established under the Telecommunications Act 2005;”.

3. Objectives of this Act - Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) repeal paragraphs (b) and (h); and
- (b) after paragraph (o) insert:

“(p) encourage and preserve cultural diversity; and
(q) establish measures for the control of broadcasting content to protect vulnerable sectors of the public such as children and to reflect community standards.”.

4. Insertion of new provision - After section 4 of the Principal Act under Part II, insert:

“4A. The Regulator and Office of the Regulator - The Regulator under the Telecommunications Act 2005 shall be *ex officio* the Broadcasting Regulator and the Office of the Regulator established under the Telecommunications Act 2005 shall function as the Office of the Broadcasting Regulator in accordance with the Telecommunications Act 2005 unless and until separately appointed and administered according to this Part.”.

5. Appointment of Regulator - Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) for subsections (1), (2) and (3) substitute:

“(1) The Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet, may appoint a person as Regulator for a term of up to three (3) years, who shall have and exercise the responsibilities, functions and powers conferred by this Act and any applicable law.

(2) The appointment of a Regulator may be renewed by the Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet.

(3) Cabinet may appoint a suitable regulatory body within or outside Samoa to act as Regulator for the purposes of this Act on such terms and for such period as Cabinet approves, and if the arrangement is no longer required or considered to be unsatisfactory in meeting the objectives of this Act, Cabinet may revoke such appointment.”;

(b) subsections (4), (7)(a) and (10) are repealed;

(c) in subsections (8) and (9), for “subsection (4)”, substitute “subsection (3)”.

6. Office of the Broadcasting Regulator - In section 8, subsection (15) of the Principal Act is repealed.

7. Part III on Broadcasting Tribunal - Part III of the Principal Act is repealed.

8. Appeal of orders of the Regulator to the Broadcasting Tribunal - In section 10(1) of the Principal Act omit “established under section 11”.

9. Broadcasting policies-(1) Section 29 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) in subsection (1), for “The Ministry shall propose, and the” substitute “The”;
- (b) subsection (4) of the Principal Act is repealed;
- (c) in subsection (9), after “consult with” insert “the Regulator and other”.

10. Functions and duties of the Regulator regarding competition - Section 31 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) in subsection (1), paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) are repealed;
- (b) for subsection (2), substitute:

“(2) Wherever a conflict arises between the provisions of this Act and the provisions of any other legislation regulating competition in broadcasting markets in Samoa, the provisions of this Part shall prevail except in relation to the Telecommunications Act 2005 in which case the latter shall prevail.”.

11. Repeal of sections - Sections 32 and 33 of the Principal Act are repealed.

12. Determination of abuse of dominance and anti-competitive practices - For section 35 of the Principal Act, substitute:

“35. Determination of service provider’s anti-competitive practices - The Regulator may, on application by any person, or on the Regulator’s own initiative, determine:

- (a) whether or not the actions or activities of a service provider amount to an anti-competitive practice within the meaning of section 34; or

- (b) that an action or activity of a service provider under sections 34 is authorized and does not contravene this Act, on the grounds that such activities are in the public interest and otherwise consistent with the objectives set out in section 3.”.

13. Remedies for abuse of dominance and anti-competitive practices - Section 36 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) in the section title, omit “abuse of dominance and”;
(b) omit, “an abuse of the service provider’s dominant position or”.

14. Transfers of control of service providers - In section 37, subsection (2) of the Principal Act substitute:

“(2) No transfer of control of an individual licensee shall be effected without the prior approval of the Regulator if as a result of the transfer, a person, alone or with affiliates, would control service providers whose gross revenues in a specific broadcasting market constitutes 40% or more of the total gross revenues of all service providers in that market.”.

15. Appeal against surcharge - In section 40(2) of the Principal Act omit “established under section 11”.

16. Consequential amendments-(1) In the Principal Act, omit “dominant” wherever occurring.

(2) In section 2 of the Principal Act omit “universal access policy” and meaning from interpretation.

(3) Section 30(1)(a) of the Principal Act is repealed.

**The Broadcasting Amendment Act 2016 is administered by the
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.**

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