MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULES EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION

MB Docket No. 11-43

On October 17, 2023, the Commission adopted the 2023 Audio Description Order, which expanded the Commission’s audio description requirements by phasing them in for an additional 10 designated market areas (DMAs) each year until all 210 DMAs are included. Specifically, the new rules will phase in the existing audio description requirements to DMAs 101 through 110 on January 1, 2025, extending to 10 additional DMAs per year until the phase-in concludes with DMAs 201 through 210 on January 1, 2035. Those rules become effective 30 days after publication of the order in the Federal Register. The Federal Register published a summary of the 2023 Audio Description Order on October 27, 2023. Accordingly, the rules adopted in the 2023 Audio Description Order will take effect on November 27, 2023.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 844 432-2275 (videophone).

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Diana Sokolow, Policy Division, Media Bureau, 202-418-2120.

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2 See id. at para. 9. In accordance with the audio description expansion adopted in 2020, the Commission’s audio description rules will expand to DMAs 91 through 100 on January 1, 2024. See 47 CFR § 79.3(b)(1).

3 See 2023 Audio Description Order at para. 17.