

Media Contact:

Janice Wise, (202) 418-8165
janice.wise@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**FCC PROPOSES TO STREAMLINE REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS
FOR TELEVISION SATELLITE STATIONS**

Action is Part of the FCC's Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative

WASHINGTON, March 22, 2018 — The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to streamline the process for reauthorizing television satellite stations when they are assigned or transferred in combination with their previously approved parent station.

Television satellite stations are full-power terrestrial broadcast stations that generally retransmit some or all of the programming of a commonly owned parent station. Stations that the Commission has authorized as satellites are excepted from the broadcast ownership limits, most notably the local television ownership rule. If a satellite station is assigned or transferred to another owner and the new owner wishes to continue operating the station as a satellite, the new owner must seek reauthorization, a process that currently requires the same evidentiary showing required for an initial authorization.

Today's Notice proposes to streamline this reauthorization process when a previously approved satellite station is assigned or transferred. The Notice seeks comment on ways to reduce the costs and burdens of seeking a satellite reauthorization, for example, by requiring a certification process for applicants, while still retaining the Commission's ability to ensure that reauthorizations are in the public interest. The item also seeks comment on whether or not to apply any streamlined processes the Commission adopts to transactions involving a change in a satellite station's parent.

This proceeding is the eighth rulemaking of the FCC's *Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative* launched in May 2017 to reduce unnecessary regulation in the media marketplace.

Action by the Commission March 22, 2018 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 18-34). Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel approving. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, and Carr separate statements.

MB Docket No. 18-63; MB Docket No. 17-105

###

Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500
ASL Videophone: (844) 432-2275
TTY: (888) 835-5322
Twitter: @FCC
www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).