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For Immediate Release

**FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON REVISIONS TO PROCESS FOR
RESOLVING PROGRAM CARRIAGE DISPUTES**

Action Continues Commission's Efforts to Modernize Its Media Rules

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2020 – The Federal Communications Commission today voted to seek comment on proposed changes to its rules governing the resolution of program carriage disputes between video programming vendors and multichannel video programming distributors – such as cable and satellite operators.

In this combined Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission proposes changes to two procedural provisions: the statute of limitations governing program carriage disputes and the rule governing review of initial decisions of program carriage disputes by an FCC administrative law judge (ALJ). First, it proposes to clarify that in circumstances where a defendant multichannel video programming distributor has denied or failed to acknowledge a request for program carriage, the statute of limitations is triggered by that action, rather than notice of intent to file a complaint on that basis. For consistency, it proposes to similarly revise the statutes of limitations for program access, open video system (OVS), and good-faith retransmission consent complaints. Second, it proposes to harmonize the review procedures of ALJ decisions regarding program carriage, program access, and OVS complaints with the Commission's generally applicable review procedures. With these revisions, the Commission intends to make its procedures more consistent and encourage the timely resolution of program carriage disputes.

Today's rulemaking furthers the Commission's *Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative*, launched in 2017, to eliminate or modify media regulations that are outdated, unnecessary or unduly burdensome, and represents the 22nd modernization action launched by the Media Bureau.

Action by the Commission March 31, 2020 by Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 20-39). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks approving. Commissioners O'Rielly and Starks issuing separate statements.

MB Docket Nos. 20-70, 11-131, 17-105

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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).