

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1859

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce restrictions on media ownership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1997

Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. OXLEY, and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce restrictions on media ownership, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Local Television Com-
5 petition and Diversity Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVISION OF DUOPOLY RULES.**

7 Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934
8 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 337. REVISION OF DUOPOLY RULES.**

2 “(a) **LIMITATION ON DUOPOLY RULES.**—The Com-
3 mission shall not prohibit a person or entity directly from
4 owning, operating, or controlling or having a cognizable
5 interest in, two television stations within the same tele-
6 vision market if at least one of such stations is a UHF
7 television station, unless the Commission determines that
8 permitting such ownership, operation, or control will sig-
9 nificantly harm competition or will significantly harm the
10 preservation of a diversity of media voices in the local tele-
11 vision market.

12 “(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The Commission, in unusual and
13 compelling circumstances, may permit a person or entity
14 to directly or indirectly own, operate, or control or have
15 a cognizable interest in, two VHF television stations with-
16 in the same television market, if the applicant dem-
17 onstrates to the satisfaction of the Commission that per-
18 mitting such ownership, operation, or control will not sig-
19 nificantly harm competition and will not significantly
20 harm the preservation of a diversity of media voices in
21 the local television market.”.

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