

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4835

To promote transparency in the adoption of new media ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission, and to establish an independent panel to make recommendations on how to increase the representation of women and minorities in broadcast media ownership.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2007

Mr. INSLEE (for himself and Mr. REICHERT) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To promote transparency in the adoption of new media ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission, and to establish an independent panel to make recommendations on how to increase the representation of women and minorities in broadcast media ownership.

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 “Media Ownership Act  
5 of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDIA OWNERSHIP REFORMS.**

2 Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996  
3 (Public Law 104–104; 110 Stat. 110) is amended by—

4 (1) redesignating subsection (i) as subsection  
5 (l); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(i) NOTICE AND PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIRE-  
9 MENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In modifying, revising, or  
11 amending any of its regulations related to broadcast  
12 ownership, including any ownership rule or limita-  
13 tion set forth under sections 73.3555, 73.658(g), or  
14 76.501 of its regulations (47 C.F.R. 73.3555,  
15 73.658(g), 76.501), the Commission shall—

16 “(A) not later than 90 days prior to any  
17 vote by the Commission on the adoption of such  
18 modification, revision, or amendment publish  
19 such prospective modification, revision, or  
20 amendment in the Federal Register;

21 “(B) after such publication provide the  
22 public at least 60 days on which to comment on  
23 the prospective modification, revision, or  
24 amendment; and

25 “(C) upon the expiration of the 60-day  
26 comment period described under paragraph (2),

1           have not less than 30 days in which to reply to  
2           any such comments.

3           “(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

4                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The notice and public  
5           requirements under paragraph (1) shall apply  
6           to any attempt by the Commission to modify,  
7           revise, or amend its regulations related to  
8           broadcast and newspaper ownership made after  
9           October 1, 2007.

10                   “(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If the Com-  
11           mission fails to comply with the notice and pub-  
12           lic requirements under paragraph (1) with re-  
13           spect to any modification, revision, or amend-  
14           ment to which such requirements apply, then  
15           such modification, revision, or amendment shall  
16           be vitiated and shall be of no force and effect.

17           “(j) PROMOTION OF LOCAL CONTENT IN MEDIA.—  
18           Before voting on any change in the broadcast and news-  
19           paper ownership rules, the Commission shall initiate, con-  
20           duct, and complete a separate rulemaking proceeding to  
21           promote the broadcast of local programming and content  
22           by broadcasters, including radio and television broadcast  
23           stations, and newspapers. Before issuing a final rule, the  
24           Commission shall—

1           “(1) conduct a study to determine the overall  
2           impact of television station duopolies and news-  
3           paper-broadcast cross-ownership on the quantity and  
4           quality of local news, public affairs, local news media  
5           jobs, and local cultural programming at the market  
6           level;

7           “(2) publish a proposed final rule in the Fed-  
8           eral Register not later than 90 days prior to any  
9           vote by the Commission on the adoption of the rule;

10           “(3) after such publication provide the public at  
11           least 60 days on which to comment on the prospec-  
12           tive rule; and

13           “(4) upon the expiration of the 60-day com-  
14           ment period described in paragraph (3), have not  
15           less than 30 days in which to reply to any such com-  
16           ments.

17           “(k) INDEPENDENT PANEL ON WOMEN AND MINOR-  
18           ITY OWNERSHIP OF BROADCAST MEDIA.—

19           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall  
20           establish and convene an independent panel on  
21           women and minority ownership of broadcast media  
22           to make recommendations to the Commission for  
23           specific Commission rules to increase the representa-  
24           tion of women and minorities in the ownership of  
25           broadcast media.

1 “(2) CENSUS.—The Commission shall—

2 “(A) conduct a full and accurate census of  
3 the race and gender of individuals holding a  
4 controlling interest in broadcast station li-  
5 censee;

6 “(B) provide the results of the census to  
7 the panel for its consideration before it makes  
8 any recommendation to the Commission; and

9 “(C) study the impact of media market  
10 concentration on the representation of women  
11 and minorities in the ownership of broadcast  
12 media based on the data in the census and re-  
13 port the results of that study to the panel for  
14 its consideration before it makes any rec-  
15 ommendation to the Commission.

16 “(3) CONSIDERATION OF PANEL’S REC-  
17 OMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall act on the  
18 panel’s recommendations before voting on any  
19 changes to its broadcast and newspaper ownership  
20 rules.”.

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