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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** 4572

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, 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 “STELA Reauthoriza-  
5 tion Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**

2 Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934  
3 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “December  
5 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “January  
7 1, 2015” each place it appears and inserting “Janu-  
8 ary 1, 2020”.

9 **SEC. 3. RETRANSMISSION CONSENT NEGOTIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Com-  
11 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)) is  
12 amended—

13 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

14 (2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the  
15 end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(iv) prohibit a television broadcast station  
18 from coordinating negotiations or negotiating on a  
19 joint basis with another television broadcast station  
20 in the same local market (as defined in section  
21 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) to grant re-  
22 transmission consent under this section to a multi-  
23 channel video programming distributor, unless such  
24 stations are directly or indirectly under common de  
25 jure control permitted under the regulations of the  
26 Commission.”.

1 (b) MARGIN CORRECTION.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of  
2 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
3 325(b)(3)(C)) is further amended by moving the margin  
4 of clause (iii) 4 ems to the left.

5 (c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than  
6 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
7 Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement  
8 the amendments made by this section.

9 **SEC. 4. DELAYED APPLICATION OF JSA ATTRIBUTION RULE**  
10 **IN CASE OF WAIVER PETITION.**

11 In the case of a party to a joint sales agreement (as  
12 defined in Note 2(k) to section 73.3555 of title 47, Code  
13 of Federal Regulations) that is in effect on the effective  
14 date of the amendment to Note 2(k)(2) to such section  
15 made by the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and  
16 Report and Order adopted by the Commission on March  
17 31, 2014 (FCC 14–28), and who, not later than 90 days  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, submits to  
19 the Commission a petition for a waiver of the application  
20 to such agreement of the rule in such Note 2(k)(2) (as  
21 so amended), such party shall not be considered to be in  
22 violation of the ownership limitations of such section by  
23 reason of the application of such rule to such agreement  
24 until the later of—

1 (1) the date that is 18 months after the date  
2 on which the Commission denies such petition; or

3 (2) December 31, 2016.

4 **SEC. 5. DELETION OR REPOSITIONING OF STATIONS DUR-**  
5 **ING CERTAIN PERIODS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 614(b)(9) of the Commu-  
7 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 534(b)(9)) is amended  
8 by striking the second sentence.

9 (b) REVISION OF RULES.—Not later than 90 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-  
11 sion shall revise section 76.1601 of its rules (47 CFR  
12 76.1601) and any note to such section by removing the  
13 prohibition against deletion or repositioning of a local  
14 commercial television station during a period in which  
15 major television ratings services measure the size of audi-  
16 ences of local television stations.

17 **SEC. 6. REPEAL OF INTEGRATION BAN.**

18 (a) NO FORCE OR EFFECT.—The second sentence of  
19 section 76.1204(a)(1) of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-  
20 tions, shall have no force or effect after the date of the  
21 enactment of this Act.

22 (b) REMOVAL FROM RULES.—Not later than 180  
23 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
24 mission shall complete all actions necessary to remove the  
25 sentence described in subsection (a) from its rules.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS OF**  
2 **STATUTORY LICENSING MODIFICATIONS.**

3 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United  
4 States shall conduct a study that analyzes and evaluates  
5 the changes to the carriage requirements currently im-  
6 posed on multichannel video programming distributors  
7 under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151  
8 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated by the Commis-  
9 sion that would be required or beneficial to consumers,  
10 and such other matters as the Comptroller General con-  
11 siders appropriate, if Congress implemented a phase-out  
12 of the current statutory licensing requirements set forth  
13 under sections 111, 119, and 122 of title 17, United  
14 States Code. Among other things, the study shall consider  
15 the impact such a phase-out and related changes to car-  
16 riage requirements would have on consumer prices and ac-  
17 cess to programming.

18 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the  
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
20 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
21 a report on the results of the study conducted under sub-  
22 section (a), including any recommendations for legislative  
23 or administrative actions. Such report shall also include  
24 a discussion of any differences between such results and  
25 the results of the study conducted under section 303 of

1 the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of  
2 2010 (124 Stat. 1255).

3 **SEC. 8. LOCAL NETWORK CHANNEL BROADCAST REPORTS.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the 270th day after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act, and on each suc-  
7 ceeding anniversary of such 270th day, each satellite  
8 carrier shall submit an annual report to the Com-  
9 mission setting forth—

10 (A) each local market in which it—

11 (i) retransmits signals of 1 or more  
12 television broadcast stations with a com-  
13 munity of license in that market;

14 (ii) has commenced providing such  
15 signals in the preceding 1-year period; and

16 (iii) has ceased to provide such signals  
17 in the preceding 1-year period; and

18 (B) detailed information regarding the use  
19 and potential use of satellite capacity for the re-  
20 transmission of local signals in each local mar-  
21 ket.

22 (2) TERMINATION.—The requirement under  
23 paragraph (1) shall cease after each satellite carrier  
24 has submitted 5 reports under such paragraph.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1           (1) the terms “local market” and “satellite car-  
2           rier” have the meaning given such terms in section  
3           339(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
4           U.S.C. 339(d)); and

5           (2) the term “television broadcast station” has  
6           the meaning given such term in section 325(b)(7) of  
7           the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
8           325(b)(7)).

9   **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

10          In this Act:

11           (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
12           **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
13           mittees” means the Committee on Energy and Com-  
14           merce and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
15           House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16           Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the  
17           Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

18           (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”  
19           means the Federal Communications Commission.