



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Congress Extends Compliance Deadline for Television Joint Sales Agreements in Effect as of March 31, 2014

In this *Public Notice*, the Media Bureau announces that recently enacted legislation has suspended through September 30, 2025, for television joint sales agreements (JSAs) that were in effect as of March 31, 2014, the applicability of the rule changes adopted in the Commission's 2014 Order making certain television JSAs attributable and requiring that such JSAs be filed with the Commission. In addition, with respect to parties that otherwise would be in violation of the Commission's broadcast ownership limits because of the attribution of those JSAs, Congress has extended, through the same date, the deadline for such parties to come into compliance with the broadcast ownership limits. The legislation applies only to JSAs that were in effect as of March 31, 2014.

On April 15, 2014, the Commission released an *Order* that adopted an attribution rule for television JSAs, establishing that same-market television JSAs for more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time for the brokered station are to be counted toward the brokering station's ownership totals, just as the Commission has long done with respect to radio stations.¹ The *Order* provided a two-year period — from the effective date of the *Order* — for parties to JSAs in existence as of the release date whose attribution results in a violation of the broadcast ownership limits to come into compliance with the broadcast ownership rules. Following publication of the *Order*, the Media Bureau announced that the effective date of the attribution rule was June 19, 2014, and the two-year compliance period would end on June 19, 2016.² Subsequently, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 was enacted on December 4, 2014, in which Congress adopted a compliance deadline of December 19, 2016.³

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 was enacted on December 18, 2015. In the Act, Congress provided that, through September 30, 2025, “the amendments to the rules of the Commission [adopted in the 2014 *Order*] shall not apply to a joint sales agreement (as defined in Note 2(k) to section 73.3555 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) that was in effect on March 31, 2014,” and “[a] party to a [television] joint sales agreement that was in effect on March 31, 2014, shall not be considered to be in

¹ 2014 *Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Report and Order, MB Docket No. 14-50, 29 FCC Rcd 4371, 4527-45, paras. 340-72 (2014) (*Order*) (amending Note 2(k) to 47 C.F.R. § 73.3555 and 47 C.F.R. § 73.3613).

² *Media Bureau Announces Effective Date of the Television Joint Sales Agreement Attribution Rule*, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 7346 (MB 2014).

³ STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-200, § 104, 128 Stat. 2059, 2063 (2014).

violation of the ownership limitations of section 73.3555 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, by reason of the application of the rule in Note 2(k)(2), as so amended, to the joint sales agreement.”⁴

For additional information on this proceeding, contact Benjamin Arden, Benjamin.Arden@fcc.gov, of the Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau, at (202) 418-2330. Press inquiries should be directed to Janice Wise, (202) 418-8165. TTY: (202) 418-7172 or (888) 835-5322.

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⁴ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113, § 628 (2015). We note that this Act does not impact the transaction processing guidance provided by the Media Bureau in *Processing of Broadcast Television Applications Proposing Sharing Arrangements and Contingent Interests*, 29 FCC Rcd 2647 (MB 2014).