

H.R. 1665 - Localism Broadcasting Reform Act of 2005

The Slaughter/Duncan Localism Broadcasting Reform Act of 2005.

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This bill, a mirror of S. 383, introduced by Senator John McCain, has the following important provisions, which will have slight impact on stations meeting their public interest obligations, but will give citizens greater leverage dealing with stations that do not.

- It would reduce the license term for broadcasters from 8 years to 3, thereby requiring broadcasters to provide the FCC with information every three years why their license should be renewed.

Broadcasters would be required regularly to post information about their local public affairs programming on their Internet site.

- The FCC would be required to review at least five percent of all license and renewal applications.
- During license renewal proceedings, the FCC may review not only the performance of the station seeking approval, but also the performance of all stations owned by the licensee.
- The FCC also would be required to complete its open proceeding on whether public interest obligations should apply to broadcasters in the digital era.

Statement by Senator John McCain on The Localism in Broadcasting Reform Act of 2005. February 14, 2005

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