



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

January 16, 2008

S. 2332

Media Ownership Act of 2007

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on December 4, 2007*

S. 2332 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to follow certain schedules for notice and public comment periods when changing any of its regulations related to the ownership of broadcast organizations. The bill would require the FCC to provide a 90-day period when notice of such change is offered and a 60-day period for public comment on the proposed regulations. The bill also would require the FCC to respond within 30 days to public comments received during the period set aside for such comments.

Before voting on any changes in rules governing the ownership of broadcast and newspaper organizations, the bill would require the FCC to study the effect of such cross-ownership (broadcast and newspaper organizations owned by one entity) on the availability and quality of local programming by radio and television stations and newspapers. The bill also would establish an independent panel that would make recommendations to increase the number of broadcast organizations that are owned by women and minorities.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2332 would cost less than \$500,000, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, to provide a report on media concentration to the independent panel. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2332 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susan Willie. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.