

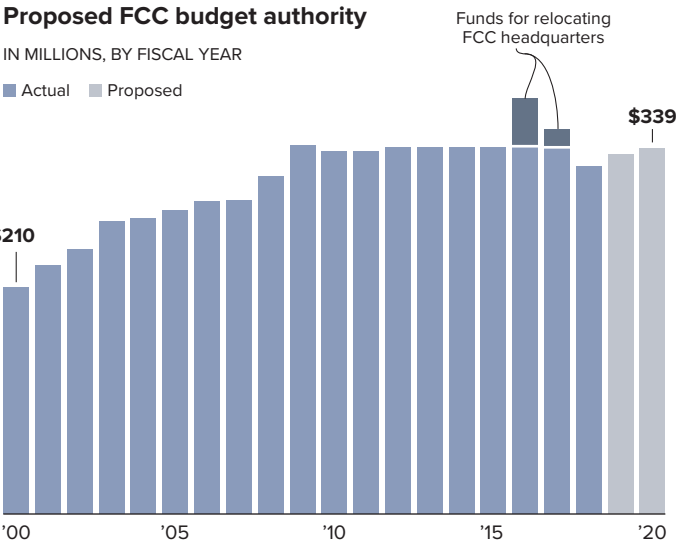
March 7, 2018

House Passes Bipartisan FCC Reauthorization Bill

For the first time since 1990, the House passed a bipartisan bill — on a voice vote — to reauthorize the FCC. The effort, negotiated by leaders from both chambers of Congress, combines more than a dozen previous bills and legislative fixes for the FCC that had stalled in previous sessions, amounting to an ambitious overhaul of the agency.

The bill legislates key technical fixes to ensure the continued operation of the FCC’s incentive auctions — which encourage older broadcast stations to sell its airwaves to companies deploying the latest technologies. Funding shortfalls would also be addressed, and the bill includes provisions from the Senate’s MOBILE NOW Act to open up new spectrum space for 5G wireless networks.

Other provisions would address emergency communication during disasters, caller ID spoofing, communications infrastructure along highways, and communications access for low-income and rural Americans. To expedite passage, some provisions could possibly be attached to an upcoming bill to fund the government and avert shutdown.

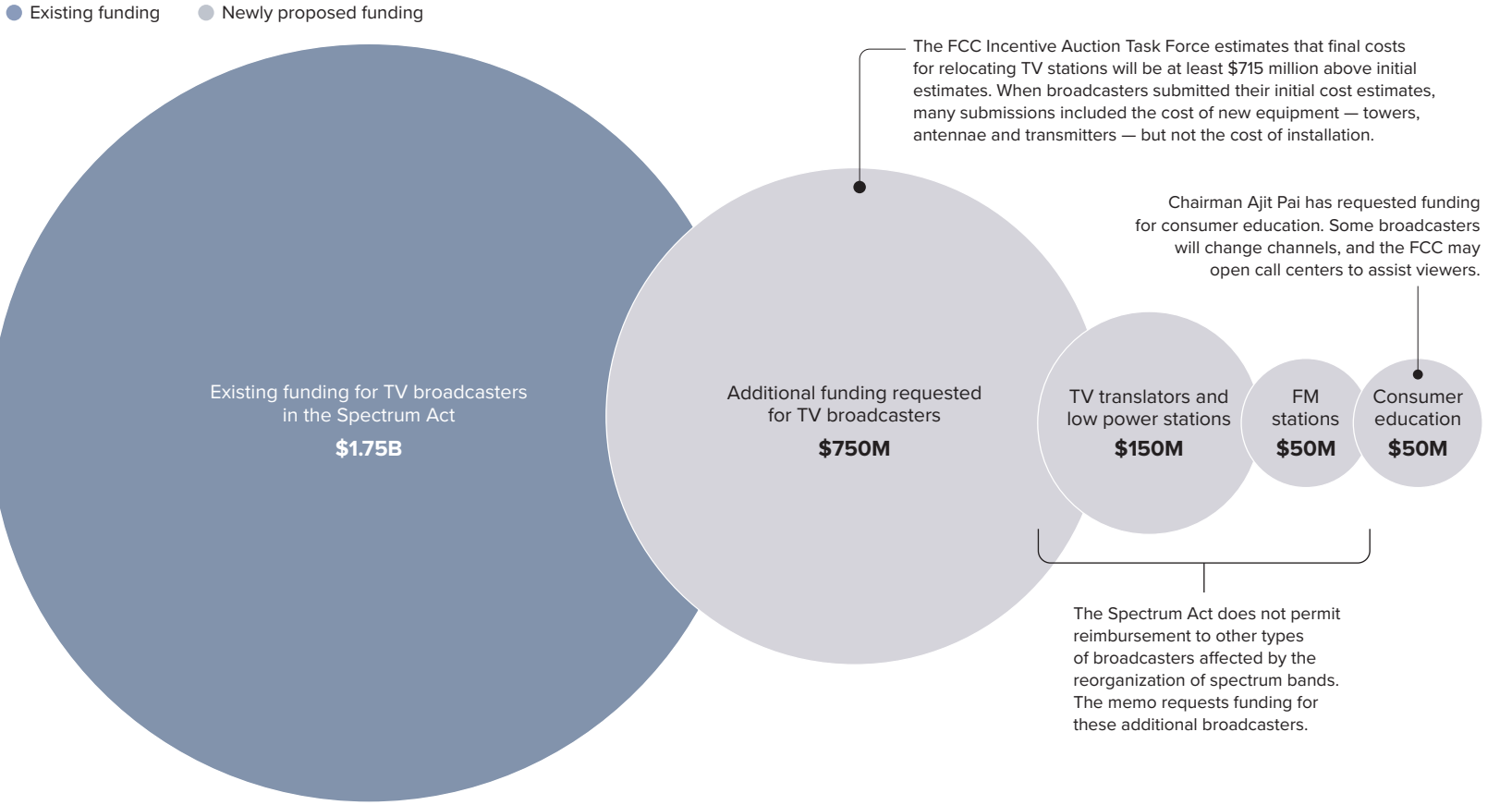


Bill Would Address Compensation Shortfall for Relocating Broadcasters

According to an internal FCC memo, the agency lacks funding needed to help relocate TV stations that participated in the FCC’s most recent incentive auction. While previous legislation authorizing the auction provided \$1.75 billion for this purpose, an agency task force now says the stations will need hundreds of millions more to smoothly transition. If this funding is not provided soon, the memo warns that the shortfall could jeopardize the deployment of next-generation 5G networks and cause some TV stations to go off-air.

The new reauthorization does not directly provide the FCC the funds, but instead authorizes Treasury to make the needed reimbursements.

Total funding needed for broadcaster repackaging, according to an FCC task force memo

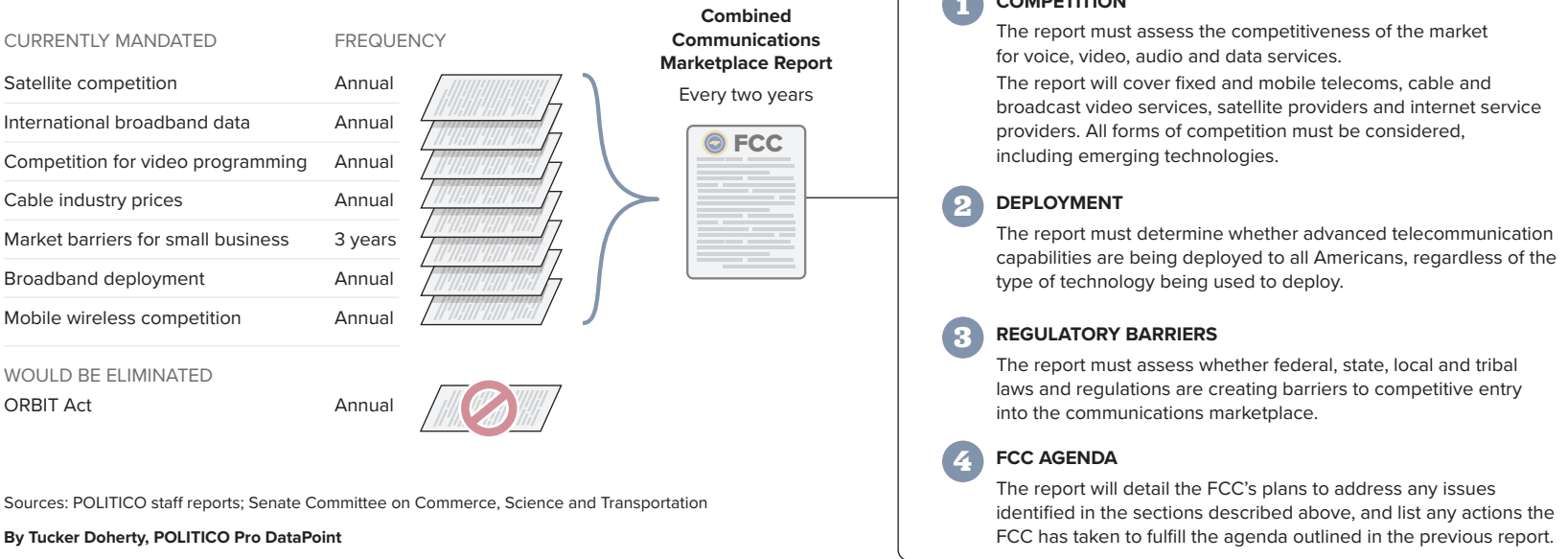


Bill Would Streamline FCC Reporting Requirements

The FCC is required by law to produce a multitude of reports on the industries it regulates. Some of these reports are duplicative or outdated — for example, the ORBIT Act of 2000 requires the FCC to produce an annual report on privatizing two satellite service providers. The providers were fully privatized as of 2001, but the agency is still required to draft a report — its 18th annual report on the subject was submitted in 2017.

Under the new reauthorization, seven existing reports would be combined into a single report produced every two years.

Proposed consolidation of FCC reports in H.R. 4986



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