Initiation Collecting public commenta **Commission vote** Issuance analysis FCC staff in May be Report and Chairman decides whether FCC issues Notice of Inquiry to initiated the bureaus Order and when the commission collect public comments on a topic. internally, and offices Adopts new votes on an item. externally, assigned to rules, amends or statutorily. the issue existing rules, Public submits comments during the analyze the or states that FCC releases the time frame established in the notice. Vote by information in there will be circulation: Sunshine Agenda the public no changes. commissioners of items record and FCC issues Notice of Proposed electronically scheduled for a propose an Rulemaking inviting public vote at a public circulate and action for comments on new rules or vote on an item. meeting. The commission changes to existing rules. public may not consideration. contact the agency to discuss Public submits comments during the any matters that time frame established in the notice. appear on the Sunshine Agenda FCC issues Further Notice of unless there is a Proposed Rulemaking to further specific clarify and seek more information exemption. and public comment on the commission's proposed changes. Commissioners Public submits comments during the vote on items at time frame established in the notice. a public meeting.

Figure 1: FCC's Rulemaking Process

Source: GAO analysis of FCC information.

items, with some exceptions.

Dashed lines indicate that a step is optional.

^aThis graphic focuses on the process for collecting public comments for APA notice and comment rulemaking proceedings. FCC may collect public comment through other means (such as soliciting comments on a petition for rulemaking through a Public Notice during the initiation phase). A person outside of the FCC may file a Petition for Rulemaking to suggest new rules or changes to existing rules. Unless directed in the FCC's Public Notice seeking comment on the petition, the public has 30 days from the date of the Public Notice to submit comments on whether the FCC should grant or deny the petition. After reviewing the comments received in response to the petition, the FCC issues an order disposing of the petition, an NOI, or an NPRM.

Period during which public may submit ex parte comments to FCC officials for any published notice categorized as permit-but-disclose. Prohibited for Sunshine Agenda