



House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

Chairman Bob Goodlatte

The Music Modernization Act

H.R. 5447 – House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte; Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler; IP Subcommittee Vice-Chairman Doug Collins; Rep. Hakeem Jeffries; IP Subcommittee Chairman Darrell Issa; IP Subcommittee Ranking Member Hank Johnson; Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas); and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.)

Several years ago, the House Judiciary Committee began a comprehensive review of our nation’s copyright laws. We held dozens of hearings, heard from over a hundred witnesses, and traveled to multiple cities across the country to hear directly from stakeholders who use these laws. During the course of this review, we learned that our music licensing laws were no longer working as intended for songwriters, artists and creators, or for the companies that deliver the music in innovative ways for consumers.

The Music Modernization Act, a product of the House Judiciary Committee’s comprehensive copyright review, is a bipartisan bill that updates several key provisions of U.S. copyright law regarding music licensing.

Bill Summary:

Title I – Music Modernization Act

- Much of the current, cumbersome music licensing system was established based on the 1909 technology of the player piano. It is long past time to update it for the digital era.
- Reflects how modern digital music services operate by creating a blanket licensing system to quickly license and pay for musical work copyrights
- Discourages music litigation that generates legal settlements so that artists and copyright owners are paid without such litigation
- Ends the flawed U.S. Copyright Office bulk notice of intent system that allows royalties to not be paid
- Implements uniform rate setting standards to be used by the Copyright Royalty Board for all music services
- Shifts the costs of the new licensing collective created by the bill to those who benefit from the collective - the licensees
- Updates how certain rate court cases are assigned in the Southern District of New York

Title II -- Compensating Legacy Artists for their Songs, Service, and Important Contributions to Society (CLASSICS) Act

- Provides that performers who recorded songs before 1972 can finally be paid for their works (currently, only performers who recorded songs after 1972 are paid for their works)

Title III -- Allocation for Music Producers (AMP) Act

- Ensures that record producers, sound engineers, and other creative professionals receive compensation for their work



The Music Modernization Act (H.R. 5447)

Talking Points:

- Thanks to America's copyright industries – movies, television programming, music, books, video games and computer software we have a better quality of life with rich entertainment and cultural experiences for citizens.
- U.S. copyright owners have created millions of high-skilled, high-paying U.S. jobs, have contributed billions to our economy, and have led to a better quality of life with rich entertainment and cultural experiences for citizens.
- We must ensure that our copyright laws are working in the digital age to reward creativity and protect the rights of authors, artists, and creators.
- As technology continues to rapidly advance, our copyright system faces new challenges.
- The Music Modernization Act makes important and long overdue updates to our copyright laws to ensure American music creators are properly recognized and rewarded for their works.
- The Music Modernization Act, which is the first major update to our music licensing laws in decades, is vital to promoting American creativity and innovation in the digital age.