Calendar No. 181

111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 379

To provide fair compensation to artists for use of their sound recordings.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

October 15, 2009

Reported by Mr. LEAHY, with amendments [Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To provide fair compensation to artists for use of their sound recordings.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Performance Rights5 Act".

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1	SEC. 2. EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR TERRESTRIAL
2	BROADCASTSESTABLISHING EQUITABLE
3	TREATMENT FOR TERRESTRIAL, CABLE, SAT-
4	ELLITE, AND INTERNET SERVICES.
5	(a) Performance Right Applicable to Radio
6	TRANSMISSIONS GENERALLY.—Section 106(6) of title 17,
7	United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
8	"(6) in the case of sound recordings, to perform
9	the copyrighted work publicly by means of an audio
10	transmission.".
11	(b) Inclusion of Terrestrial Broadcasts in
12	EXISTING PERFORMANCE RIGHT.—Section 114(d)(1) of
13	title 17, United States Code, is amended—
14	(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
15	by striking "a digital" and inserting "an"; and
16	(2) by striking subparagraph (A).
17	(a) INCLUSION OF TEPPESTRIAL BROADCASTS IN

17 (c) INCLUSION OF TERRESTRIAL BROADCASTS IN
18 EXISTING STATUTORY LICENSE SYSTEM.—Section
19 114(j)(6) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by
20 striking "digital".

(d) ELIMINATING REGULATORY BURDENS FOR TERRESTRIAL BROADCAST STATIONS.—Section 114(d)(2) of
title 17, United States Code, is amended in the matter
preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "subsection (f) if"
and inserting "subsection (f) if, other than for a nonsubscription and noninteractive broadcast transmission,".

1	(e) Ensuring Platform Parity.—Section 114(f) of
2	title 17, United States Code, is amended—
3	(1) by striking paragraph (1);
4	(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4),
5	and (5) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respec-
6	tively; and
7	(3) in paragraph (1), as redesignated—
8	(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9	"under chapter 8" and all that follows through
10	the end of the third sentence and inserting
11	"under chapter 8 shall determine reasonable
12	rates and terms of royalty payments for trans-
13	missions subject to statutory licensing under sub-
14	section $(d)(2)$ during 5-year periods beginning
15	on January 1 of the second year following the
16	year in which the proceedings are to be com-
17	menced, except in the case of a different transi-
18	tional period provided under section $6(b)(3)$ of
19	the Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform
20	Act of 2004, or such other period as the parties
21	may agree.";
22	(B) in subparagraph (B)—
23	(i) in the second sentence, by striking
24	$``eligible \ \ nonsubscription \ \ transmission'';$
25	and

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1	(ii) in the third sentence, by striking
2	"eligible nonsubscription services and new
3	subscription" and all that follows through
4	"subparagraph (A)" and inserting "services,
5	in addition to the objectives set forth in sub-
6	paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section
7	801(b)(1), the Copyright Royalty Judges
8	may consider the rates and terms for com-
9	parable types of services and comparable
10	circumstances under voluntary license
11	agreements. Notwithstanding section
12	801(b)(1), the provisions of section
13	801(b)(1)(D) shall not be taken into account
14	by the Copyright Royalty Judges in any
15	proceeding under this section"; and
16	(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
17	serting the following:
18	"(C) The procedures under subparagraphs
19	(A) and (B) shall also be initiated pursuant to
20	a petition filed by any copyright owner of sound
21	recordings or any transmitting entity indicating
22	that a new type of service on which sound re-
23	cordings are performed is or is about to become
24	operational, for the purpose of determining rea-
25	sonable terms and rates of royalty payments

1	with respect to such new type of service for the
2	period beginning with the inception of such new
3	type of service and ending on the date on which
4	the royalty rates and terms for preexisting serv-
5	ices most recently determined under subpara-
6	graph (A) or (B) and chapter 8 expire, or such
7	other period as the parties may agree.".
8	(f) Technical and Conforming Amendments.—
9	(1) SECTION 114(F).—Section 114(f) of title 17,
10	United States Code (as amended by subsection (e)), is
11	further amended—
12	(A) in paragraph $(1)(B)$, in the first sen-
13	tence, by striking "paragraph (3)" and inserting
14	"paragraph (2)"; and
15	(B) in paragraph $(4)(C)$, by striking
16	"under paragraph (4)" and inserting "under
17	paragraph (3)".
18	(2) Section 114(J).—Section $114(j)(6)$ of title
19	17, United States Code, is amended by striking "re-
20	transmissions of broadcast transmissions" and insert-
21	ing "broadcast transmissions and retransmissions of
22	broadcast transmissions".
23	(3) Section 804.—Section $804(b)(3)(C)$ of title
24	17, United States Code, is amended—

	ů.
1	(A) in clause (i), by striking "and
2	114(f)(2)(C)";
3	(B) in clause $(iii)(II)$, by striking
4	" $114(f)(4)(B)(ii)$ " and inserting
5	"114(f)(3)(B)(ii)"; and
6	(C) in clause (iv), by striking "or
7	114(f)(2)(C), as the case may be".
8	SEC. 3. SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SMALL, NONCOMMER-
9	CIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND RELIGIOUS STA-
10	TIONS AND CERTAIN USES.
11	(a) Small, Noncommercial, Educational, and
12	Religious Radio Stations.—
13	(1) IN GENERAL.—Section $114(f)(2)$ of title 17,
14	United States Code, is amended by adding at the
15	end the following:
16	"(D) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-
17	paragraphs (A) through (C), each individual terres-
18	trial broadcast station that has gross revenues in
19	any calendar year of less than \$1,250,000 may elect
20	to pay for its over-the-air nonsubscription broadcast
21	transmissions a royalty fee of \$5,000 per year, in
22	lieu of the amount such station would otherwise be
23	required to pay under this paragraph. Such royalty
24	fee shall not be taken into account in determining
25	royalty rates in a proceeding under chapter 8, or in

any other administrative, judicial, or other Federal
 Government proceeding.

"(E) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-3 4 paragraphs (A) through (C), each individual terres-5 trial broadcast station that is a public broadcasting 6 entity as defined in section 118(f) may elect to pay 7 for its over-the-air nonsubscription broadcast trans-8 missions a royalty fee of \$1,000 per year, in lieu of 9 the amount such station would otherwise be required 10 to pay under this paragraph. Such royalty fee shall 11 not be taken into account in determining royalty 12 rates in a proceeding under chapter 8, or in any 13 other administrative, judicial, or other Federal Gov-14 ernment proceeding.".

15 SEC. 3. SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SMALL, NONCOMMER-16CIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND RELIGIOUS STA-17TIONS AND CERTAIN USES.

18 (a) SMALL, NONCOMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND RE19 LIGIOUS RADIO STATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 114(f)(1) of title 17,
21 United States Code, as redesignated by section 2(e),
22 is amended by adding at the end the following:

23 "(D)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of
24 subparagraphs (A) through (C), each individual
25 terrestrial broadcast station that has gross reve-

1	nues within a range specified in clause (ii) may
2	elect to pay for its over-the-air nonsubscription
3	broadcast transmissions a royalty fee as pro-
4	vided in clause (ii), in lieu of the amount such
5	station would otherwise be required to pay under
6	this paragraph. Such royalty fee shall not be
7	taken into account in determining royalty rates
8	in a proceeding under chapter 8, or in any other
9	administrative, judicial, or other Federal Gov-
10	ernment proceeding.
11	"(ii) As provided in clause (i), each indi-
12	vidual terrestrial broadcast station that has gross
13	revenues in any calendar year of—
14	"(I) less than \$50,000 may elect to pay
15	for its over-the-air nonsubscription broad-
16	cast transmissions a royalty fee of \$100 per
17	year;
18	"(II) at least \$50,000 but less than
19	\$100,000 may elect to pay for its over-the-
20	air nonsubscription broadcast transmissions
21	a royalty fee of \$500 per year;
22	"(III) at least \$100,000 but less than
23	\$500,000 may elect to pay for its over-the-
24	air nonsubscription broadcast transmissions
25	a royalty fee of \$2,500 per year; and

"(IV) at least \$500,000 but less than \$1,250,000 may elect to pay for its over-theair nonsubscription broadcast transmissions a royalty fee of \$5,000 per year.

5 (E)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of 6 subparagraphs (A) through (C), each individual 7 terrestrial broadcast station that is a public 8 broadcasting entity as defined in section 118(f) 9 and that has gross revenues within a range spec-10 ified in clause (ii) may elect to pay for its over-11 the-air nonsubscription broadcast transmissions 12 a royalty fee as provided in clause (ii), in lieu 13 of the amount such station would otherwise be 14 required to pay under this paragraph. Such roy-15 alty fee shall not be taken into account in determining royalty rates in a proceeding under 16 17 chapter 8, or in any other administrative, judi-18 cial, or other Federal Government proceeding.

19"(ii) As provided in clause (i), each indi-20vidual terrestrial broadcast station that is a21public broadcasting entity as defined in section22118(f) and has gross receipts in any calendar23year of—

24 "(I) less than \$50,000 may elect to pay
25 for its over-the-air nonsubscription broad-

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1	cast transmissions a royalty fee of \$100 per
2	year;
3	"(II) at least \$50,000 but less than
4	\$100,000 may elect to pay for its over-the-
5	air nonsubscription broadcast transmissions
6	a royalty fee of \$500 per year; and
7	"(III) \$100,000 or more may elect to
8	pay for its over-the-air nonsubscription
9	broadcast transmissions a royalty fee of
10	\$1,000 per year.
11	``(F) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-
12	paragraphs (A) through (E), each individual ter-
13	restrial broadcast station that had total gross
14	revenues during the 4 full calendar quarters im-
15	mediately preceding the date of enactment of the
16	Performance Rights Act of—
17	"(i) less than $$5,000,000$ shall not be
18	required to pay a royalty under this para-
19	graph during the 3 years immediately fol-
20	lowing the date of enactment of the Per-
21	formance Rights Act; and
22	"(ii) \$5,000,000 or more shall not be
23	required to pay a royalty under this para-
24	graph during the 1 year immediately fol-

1	lowing the date of enactment of the Per-
2	formance Rights Act.
3	The provisions of this subparagraph shall not be
4	taken into account in determining royalty rates
5	in a proceeding under chapter 8, or in any other
6	administrative, judicial, or other Federal Gov-
7	ernment proceeding.".
8	(2) PAYMENT DATE.—A payment under sub-
9	paragraph (D) or (E) of section $\frac{114(f)(2)}{114(f)(1)}$
10	of title 17, United States Code, as added by para-
11	graph (1), shall not be due until the due date of the
12	first royalty payments for nonsubscription broadcast
13	transmissions that are determined, after the date of
14	the enactment of this Act, under such section
15	$\frac{114(f)(2)}{114(f)(1)}$ by reason of the amendment
16	made by section $2(b)(2)$ of this Act.
17	(b) TRANSMISSION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES; INCI-
18	DENTAL USES OF MUSIC.—Section 114(d)(1) of title 17,
19	United States Code, as amended by section 2(b), is further
20	amended by inserting the following before subparagraph

- 21 (B):
- 22 "(A) an eligible nonsubscription trans23 mission of—
- 24 "(i) services at a place of worship or
 25 other religious assembly; and or

"(ii) an incidental use of a musical
 sound recording;".

3 SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF PER PROGRAM LICENSE.

Section 114(f)(2)(B) of title 17, United States
Code114(f)(1)(B) of title 17, United States Code, as redesignated by section 2(e), is amended by inserting after the
second sentence the following new sentence: "Such rates
and terms shall include a per program license option for
terrestrial broadcast stations that make limited feature
uses of sound recordings.".

11 SEC. 5. NO HARMFUL EFFECTS ON SONGWRITERS.

12 (a) PRESERVATION OF ROYALTIES ON UNDERLYING 13 WORKS.—Section 114(i) of title 17, United States Code, 14 is amended in the second sentence by striking "It is the 15 intent of Congress that royalties" and inserting "Royal-16 ties".

17 (b) PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYAL18 THES.—Nothing in this Act shall adversely affect in any
19 respect the public performance rights of or royalties pay20 able to songwriters or copyright owners of musical works.

21 SEC. 5. NO HARMFUL EFFECTS ON SONGWRITERS.

(a) No Adverse Affect on License Fees for UnDerlying Musical Works; Necessity for Other Licenses.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 114(i) of title 17,
 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
 "(i) NO ADVERSE AFFECT ON LICENSE FEES FOR UN DERLYING MUSICAL WORKS; NECESSITY FOR OTHER LI CENSES.—

6 "(1) NO ADVERSE AFFECT ON LICENSE FEES FOR 7 UNDERLYING MUSICAL WORKS.—License fees payable 8 for the public performance of sound recordings under 9 section 106(6) shall not be cited, taken into account, 10 or otherwise used in any administrative, judicial, or 11 other governmental forum or proceeding, or otherwise, 12 to set or adjust the license fees payable to copyright 13 owners of musical works or their representatives for 14 the public performance of their works, for the purpose 15 of reducing or adversely affecting such license fees. Li-16 cense fees payable to copyright owners for the public 17 performance of their musical works shall not be re-18 duced or adversely affected in any respect as a result 19 of the rights granted by section 106(6).

20 "(2) NECESSITY FOR OTHER LICENSES.—Not21 withstanding the grant by an owner of copyright in
22 a sound recording of an exclusive or nonexclusive li23 cense of the right under section 106(6) to perform the
24 work publicly, a licensee of that sound recording may
25 not publicly perform such sound recording unless a li-

1 cense has been granted for the public performance of 2 any copyrighted musical work contained in the sound 3 recording. Such license to publicly perform the copy-4 righted musical work may be granted either by a per-5 forming rights society representing the copyright 6 owner or by the copyright owner.". 7 (2)Conforming AMENDMENT.—Section

8 114(d)(3)(C) of title 17, United States Code, is hereby
9 repealed.

(b) PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTIES.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
Act shall adversely affect in any respect the public performance rights of or royalties payable to songwriters or copyright owners of musical works.

(c) PRESERVATION OF ROYALTIES ON UNDERLYING
WORKS PUBLICLY PERFORMED BY TERRESTRIAL BROADCAST STATIONS.—Section 114(f) of title 17, United States
Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
paragraph:

20 "(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
21 section, under no circumstances shall the rates estab22 lished by the Copyright Royalty Judges for the public
23 performance of sound recordings be cited, taken into
24 account, or otherwise used in any administrative, ju25 dicial, or other governmental forum or proceeding, or

1	otherwise, to reduce or adversely affect the license fees
2	payable to copyright owners of musical works or their
3	representatives for the public performance of their
4	works by terrestrial broadcast stations, and such li-
5	cense fees for the public performance of musical works
6	shall be independent of license fees paid for the public
7	performance of sound recordings.".
8	SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ROYALTIES.
9	Section $114(g)$ of title 17, United States Code, is
10	amended—
11	(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
12	lows:
13	"(1) Except in the case of a transmission to
14	which paragraph (5) applies or a transmission li-
15	censed under a statutory license in accordance with
16	subsection (f) of this section, the following shall apply:
17	"(A) A featured recording artist who per-
18	forms on a sound recording that has been li-
19	censed for public performance by means of an
20	audio transmission shall be entitled to receive
21	payments from the copyright owner of the sound
22	recording in accordance with the terms of the
23	artist's contract.
24	(B)(i) In a case in which the copyright

24 "(B)(i) In a case in which the copyright
25 owner of a sound recording has licensed the

sound recording for the public performance of the 1 2 sound recording by means of an audio transmission, the copyright owner shall deposit 1 per-3 4 cent of the receipts from the license with the 5 American Federation of Musicians and Amer-6 ican Federation of Television and Radio Artists 7 Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund 8 (or any successor entity) (in this subparagraph 9 referred to as the 'Fund') to be distributed to 10 nonfeatured performers who have performed on 11 sound recordings. The sound recording copyright 12 owner shall make such deposits for receipts re-13 ceived during the first half of a calendar year by 14 August 15 and for receipts received during the 15 second half of a calendar year by February 15 16 of the following calendar year. 17 "(ii) A sound recording copyright owner 18 shall include with deposits under clause (i) in-19 formation regarding the amount of such deposits 20 attributable to each licensee and, subject to ob-21 taining consent, if necessary, from such licensee,

for each sound recording performed by means of

an audio transmission by such licensee during

the applicable time period, and to the extent in-

cluded in the accounting reports provided by the

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1	licensee to the sound recording copyright
2	owner—
3	"(I) the identity of the artist;
4	"(II) the International Standard Re-
5	cording Code of the sound recording;
6	"(III) the title of the sound recording;
7	"(IV) the number of times the sound
8	recording was transmitted; and
9	(V) the total amount of receipts col-
10	lected from that licensee.
11	"(iii) The Fund shall make the distribu-
12	tions described in clause (i) as follows: 50 per-
13	cent shall be paid to nonfeatured musicians
14	(whether or not members of the American Fed-
15	eration of Musicians) and 50 percent shall be
16	paid to nonfeatured vocalists (whether or not
17	members of the American Federation of Tele-
18	vision and Radio Artists). The Fund may, prior
19	to making such distributions, deduct the reason-
20	able costs related to making such distributions.
21	"(iv) The sound recording copyright owner
22	shall not be required to provide any additional
23	information to the Fund other than what is re-
24	quired under this subparagraph. Sound record-
25	ing copyright owners shall use reasonable good

1	faith efforts to include in all relevant licenses a
2	requirement to report the information identified
3	in subclauses (I) through (V) of clause (ii).
4	Amounts required under clause (i) that are not
5	paid by the date specified in such clause shall be
6	subject to interest at the rate of 6 percent per
7	annum for each day of nonpayment after the
8	date the payment was due.";
9	(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "digital";
10	and
11	(3) by adding at the end the following new para-
12	graph:
13	"(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), to the ex -
14	tent that a license granted by the copyright owner of
15	a sound recording to a transmitting entity eligible for
16	a statutory license as specified by subsection $(d)(2)$
17	extends to such entity's transmissions otherwise li-
18	censable under a statutory license in accordance with
19	subsection (f), such entity shall pay to the agent des-
20	ignated to distribute statutory licensing receipts from
21	the licensing of transmissions in accordance with sub-
22	section (f), 50 percent of the total royalties that such
23	entity is required, pursuant to the applicable license
24	agreement, to pay for such transmissions otherwise li-
25	censable under a statutory license in accordance with

subsection (f). That agent shall distribute such payments in proportion to the distributions provided in
subparagraphs (B) through (D) of paragraph (2), and
such payments shall be the sole payments to which
featured and nonfeatured artists are entitled by virtue
of such transmissions under the direct license with
such entity.".

8 SEC. 7. EPHEMERAL RECORDINGS ROYALTY.

9 Section 112(e)(4) of title 17, United States Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (4)(A) The schedule of reasonable rates and 12 terms determined by the Copyright Royalty Judges 13 shall, subject to paragraph (5), be binding on all 14 copyright owners of sound recordings and transmit-15 ting organizations entitled to a statutory license 16 under this subsection during the 5-year period speci-17 fied in paragraph (3), or such other period as the 18 parties may agree. Such rates shall include a min-19 imum fee for each type of service offered by transmit-20 ting organizations.

21 "(B) With respect to phonorecords made pursu-22 ant to this subsection to facilitate transmissions of 23 public performances under the limitation on exclusive 24 rights specified by section 114(d)(1)(C)(iv), the Copy-25 right Royalty Judges shall establish rates that most

1	clearly represent the fees that would have been nego-
2	tiated in the marketplace between a willing buyer and
3	a willing seller. In determining such rates and terms,
4	the Copyright Royalty Judges shall base their deci-
5	sion on economic, competitive, and programming in-
6	formation presented by the parties, including—
7	"(i) whether use of the service may sub-
8	stitute for or may promote the sales of
9	phonorecords or otherwise interferes with or en-
10	hances the copyright owner's traditional streams
11	of revenue;
12	"(ii) the relative roles of the copyright
13	owner and the transmitting organization in the
14	copyrighted work and the service made available
15	to the public with respect to relative creative con-
16	$tribution,\ technological\ contribution,\ capital\ in-$
17	vestment, cost, and risk; and
18	"(iii) rates and terms under voluntary li-
19	cense agreements described in paragraphs (2)
20	and (3).
21	"(C) With respect to phonorecords made pursu-
22	ant to this subsection to facilitate transmissions of
23	public performances under a statutory license in ac-
24	cordance with section 114(f)—

1	``(i) the Copyright Royalty Judges shall es-
2	tablish rates and terms by application of the ap-
3	plicable standard in section 114(f) covering both
4	the applicable public performances, and the mak-
5	ing of phonorecords pursuant to this subsection
6	solely to facilitate such public performances, to-
7	gether; and
8	"(ii) the royalty payable under this sub-
9	section for the making of phonorecords used by
10	the transmitting organization solely to facilitate
11	transmissions for which it pays royalties estab-
12	lished as provided in clause (i) shall constitute
13	5 percent of such payments.
14	"(D) The Copyright Royalty Judges shall also
15	establish requirements by which copyright owners
16	may receive reasonable notice of the use of their sound
17	recordings under this section, and under which
18	records of such use shall be kept and made available
19	by transmitting organizations entitled to obtain a
20	statutory license under this subsection.".

Calendar No. 181

111TH CONGRESS S. 379

A BILL

To provide fair compensation to artists for use of their sound recordings.

October 15, 2009

Reported with amendments