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

**Bill Information**

- Introduced:
  - July 19, 2017, in House Judiciary Committee as H.R. 3301
  - February 7, 2018, in Senate Judiciary Committee as S. 2393
- Introduced by:
  - Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
  - Sens. John Kennedy (R-LA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Bob Corker (R-TN) and Cory Booker (D-NJ)
- Original co-sponsors:
  - Reps. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), John Conyers (D-MI), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Thomas Rooney (R-FL)
- Additional co-sponsors:
  - Reps. Karen Bass (D-CA), Andy Biggs (R-AZ), David Cicilline (D-RI), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Doug Collins (R-GA), Jim Cooper (D-TN), Val Demings (D-FL), Trent Franks (R-AZ), George Holding (R-NC), Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Tom Marino (R-PA), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), John Ratcliffe (R-TX), John Rutherford (R-FL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Lamar Smith (R-TX), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

**Bill Summary**

- Requires royalty payments for “digital audio transmissions” of sound recordings fixed before February 15, 1972, which are currently not protected under federal copyright law.
- Bill uses the same determination of whether the statutory license is applicable to pre-72 digital audio transmissions as post-72 sound recordings
- Voluntary licenses between the copyright owner and licensee are not precluded, but they could be utilized by Copyright Royalty Judges as reference points in determining statutory licensing rates similar to post-72 sound recordings under the 1976 Act
- Bill preempts actions for state and common law claims for pre-72 sound recordings for acts covered under the statutory license for digital audio transmissions and reproductions of post-72 sound recordings
- Fair use and §108 of the Copyright Act, safe harbors under §512 of the Copyright Act, and limitations on actions under §507 of the Copyright Act are applicable to claims for unauthorized performance of pre-72 sound recordings
- Infringement remedies include those found in Sections 502-505 of the Copyright Act

**Bill Support**

- Copyright Alliance members: Copyright Alliance, American Association of Independent Music (A2IM), ASCAP, Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP), BMI, Church Music Publishers Association (CMPA), National Music Publishers’ Association (NMPA), National Songwriters



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Association International (NSAI), Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), SAG-AFTRA, SoundExchange

- Others: Administrators of Gospel Music, American Federation of Musicians, Content Creators Coalition, Council of Music Creators (CMC), Future of Music Coalition, Living Legends Foundation, MusicAnswers, Music Managers Forum U.S., Music Publishers Association, Pandora, Production Music Association, Rhythm and Blues Foundation, Society of Composers and Lyricists, Songwriters of North America (SONA), SX Works

### **Bill Opposition**

- Library Copyright Alliance, Sirius XM