

Announcement

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559

COPYRIGHT REVISION BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

On September 22, 1976, the House of Representatives by a vote of 316 to 7 approved the bill for the general revision of the copyright law (S.22, Union Calendar No. 759). The bill is similar to the revision bill passed by the Senate on February 19, 1976, in many respects, but does include modifications of the Senate version in certain important areas such as public broadcasting and cable television. The bill was the subject of amendments made on the floor of the House, including one submitted by Representative Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, which amended section 112(d) to allow nonprofit organizations and governmental bodies that serve the visually handicapped to make up to 10 copies or phonorecords (previously one copy) of certain performances made for transmission and to exchange them with sister organizations, and an amendment submitted by Representative John P. Seiberling of Ohio, to eliminate certain language from the pre-emption section (§301(b)(3)).

The next step looking towards enactment into law will be a conference between the House and Senate to eliminate the discrepancies between their respective versions. If the bill becomes law, it will be the first general revision of the U. S. copyright law since 1909.