Sound Recording Performance Rights Amendment in Dual Suspension

The Sound Recording Performance Rights Amendment, introduced during July as S. 1552 by Senator Harrison Williams for himself and Senators Howard Baker, Bill Bradley, Alan Cranston, Jacob Javits, Howard Metzenbaum, and Paul Sarbanes, contains the same wording as the House of Representatives bill, H.R. 997, introduced in January.

The bills would amend the copyright law, P.L. 94-553, to provide a right to perform a sound recording; this performance right would be subject to a compulsory license to perform a sound recording publicly, once phonorecords of that sound recording had been distributed to the public under the authority of the copyright owner.

To conserve the cost of printing duplicates of a lengthy bill, the Copyright Office will be sending H.R. 997 to anyone who requests a copy of S. 1552.