Music Modernization Act: Catching Copyright up with Today's Technology

Century-old rules written to govern player pianos are hampering songwriters' ability to get paid

The issue: Technology has made it easier than ever for fans to access and connect with their favorite music. Unfortunately, the copyright rules to ensure that music is licensed and the songwriters who create those songs get paid haven't kept up. In fact, the current framework determining how music is licensed and songwriters get paid was originally devised in 1909 to deal with the emerging threat of ... mechanical player pianos!

Here's how it works today ... and how it would work under The Music Modernization Act:

Interactive Music Services Can Provide Listeners Access to Millions of Songs How it Current Could Law Be Streaming companies pay a single collection society for the mechanical rights. Copyright owner data was never filed or delayed Copyright owner data is outdated or The collection society incorrect aggregates and maintains accurate contact information, collects payments from all streaming services, and pays songwriters Copyright has accurately and efficiently If a copyright owner can't be found, changed hands, then streaming companies must file a information not updated NOI with the Copyright Office, which has no easily searchable database. gets paid



The solution: The *Music Modernization Act* reforms Sec. 115 to ensure more songwriters get paid quickly and accurately, and digital music providers continue to invest in creating compelling listening experiences. Streaming has dramatically changed how music lovers access their favorite songs. It's time for copyright rules to reflect this reality and provide an easier, more efficient system for royalties to get where they belong.