

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1141 (Delegate Frank, et al.)
Economic Matters

Copyright Royalties

This bill provides an exception to the requirement that a performing rights society must offer a proprietor a one-year contract, unless the parties agree to a contract for other than one year.

Specifically, the bill provides that these requirements do not apply if the terms of the contract were: (1) negotiated between a performing rights society and a national trade association representing similar proprietors; or (2) determined by a federal court to be applicable to similarly situated proprietors.

In addition, the bill prohibits a State court from having jurisdiction to determine reasonable fees for a license to perform copyrighted musical works in the repertory of a performing rights society when the matter is subject to the jurisdiction of a federal court.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division will receive fewer than 50 complaints per year stemming from this bill, existing resources should be adequate to handle any additional workload.

Local Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division),
Department of Fiscal Services

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