

MUSIC ROYALTY PRACTICES ACT

Act 430 of 2000

AN ACT to provide for the regulation of contracts between persons publicly performing or broadcasting copyrighted nondramatic musical works under certain circumstances; to provide for recognition of certain agents and employees of performing rights societies; to impose certain fees; to provide for certain powers and duties for certain state agencies and departments; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

445.2101 Short title.

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “music royalty practices act”.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2102 Definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) “Copyright owner” means the owner of a copyright of a musical work recognized and enforceable under the copyright laws. Copyright owner does not include the owner of a copyright in a motion picture or audiovisual work or in any portion of a motion picture or audiovisual work.

(b) “Copyright laws” means those laws specified pursuant to title 17 of the United States Code, 17 U.S.C. 1101 to 1101.

(c) “Performing rights society” means an association, corporation, or other entity that licenses the nondramatic public performance, broadcast, or transmittal of musical works on behalf of copyright owners including, but not limited to, the American society of composers, authors, and publishers; broadcast music, inc.; and SESAC, inc.

(d) “Proprietor” means the owner of a retail establishment, restaurant, inn, bar, tavern, sports or entertainment facility, not-for-profit organization, or any other place of business or professional office located in this state in which the public may assemble and in which musical works are publicly and nondramatically performed, broadcast, or transmitted for the enjoyment of the members of the public assembled in that place.

(e) “Royalties” means the fees payable by a proprietor to a performing rights society for the nondramatic public performance, broadcast, or transmittal of musical works.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2103 Performing rights society; duties.

Sec. 3. (1) A performing rights society doing business in this state shall maintain an electronic computer database of its repertoire. The performing rights society shall make available, in electronic form, a current list of at least the names of its authors and publishers of all its copyrighted musical works and the titles of the copyrighted musical works in its repertoire. The performing rights society shall update the list at least monthly.

(2) Upon request, any person may review the list of copyrighted works and a list of members and affiliates.

(3) The list established under subsection (1) that is in electronic form at the time a proprietor enters into a contract with a performing rights society and as supplemented by subsequent additions and deletions to that list is binding between the parties for the period of the contract.

(4) A performing rights society shall provide a copy of its most current lists of copyrighted musical works and members at cost to any person upon request. As used in this subsection, “cost” does not include the cost of maintaining the database or any other overhead.

(5) A performing rights society licensing nondramatic performance of musical works in this state shall establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number that can be used to answer inquiries regarding specific musical works licensed by that performing rights society and the copyright owners represented by that performing rights society.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2104 Performing rights society; contract for payment of royalties; conditions.

Sec. 4. A performing rights society shall not enter into, or offer to enter into, a contract for the payment of royalties by a proprietor unless, at the time of the offer or any time thereafter but at least 72 hours before the execution of the contract, it provides all of the following to the proprietor in writing:

(a) A schedule of the rates and terms of royalties under the contract including, but not limited to, any

sliding scale, discounts, or reductions in fees on any basis for which the proprietor may be eligible and any schedule increases or decreases in fees during the term of the contract.

(b) Notice that the performing rights society shall, upon request of a proprietor and before entering into a contract with that proprietor, provide a schedule of the rates and terms of royalties under contracts executed by the performing rights society and proprietors of comparable businesses in the state within the past 12 months.

(c) Notice of the provisions required under section 3 including the electronic address and toll-free telephone number.

(d) Notice of the fact that there are exemptions that may exclude that proprietor from liability under the copyright laws.

(e) Upon request of the proprietor, the opportunity to review in electronic form the most current available list of the members or affiliates represented by the performing rights society.

(f) Notice that the proprietor is entitled to the information required under this act and that failure of the performing rights society to provide that information is a violation of this act.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2105 Contract for payment of royalties; requirements.

Sec. 5. (1) A contract for the payment of royalties between a proprietor and a performing rights society executed, issued, or renewed in this state shall comply with all of the following:

(a) Be in writing.

(b) Be signed by both parties to the contract.

(c) Include at least the following information:

(i) The proprietor's name and business address and the name and location of each place of business to which the contract applies.

(ii) The name and business address of the performing rights society.

(iii) The duration of the contract.

(iv) The schedule of rates and terms of royalties to be collected under the contract including, but not limited to, any sliding scale, discount, or schedule for any increase or decrease of those rates for the duration of the contract.

(2) A contract between a performing rights society and a proprietor for the payment of royalties shall be offered for a term of 1 year but the parties may agree to a contract for a term other than 1 year. This section does not apply to a contract for a term negotiated between a performing rights society and a bona fide trade association representing a substantial percentage of proprietors of the same type.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2106 Performing rights society; prohibited acts.

Sec. 6. (1) A performing rights society or any agent, employee, representative, or other person acting on behalf of the performing rights society shall not do any of the following:

(a) Enter onto the premises of a proprietor's business for the purpose of discussing a contract for payment of royalties for the use of copyrighted works by that proprietor, without first identifying himself or herself to the proprietor or to the proprietor's management employees. Such identification includes, but is not limited to, showing a business photo-identification card issued by the performing rights society, disclosing that he or she is acting on behalf of the performing rights society, and disclosing the purpose of the entry.

(b) Collect or attempt to collect a royalty payment or any other fee except as provided in a contract executed pursuant to and in compliance with this act.

(c) Use or attempt to use any act or practice in negotiating with a proprietor, or in retaliation for a proprietor's failure or refusal to negotiate, with respect to a contract for the payment of royalties, that includes any of the following:

(i) Using or attempting to use any unfair or deceptive act or practice in dealing with a proprietor.

(ii) Engaging in any coercive act or practice that is disruptive of a proprietor's business.

(iii) Commencing or threatening to commence a legal action in connection with an alleged copyright violation unless the performing rights society shall have advised the proprietor that he or she may comply with copyright laws with respect to copyrighted musical works in the repertoire of the performing rights society by doing any of the following:

(A) Obtaining a license from that performing rights society.

(B) Discontinuing all nondramatic public performances of musical works in that performing rights society's repertoire.

(C) Obtaining authorization for nondramatic public performances of musical works directly from the

copyright owners who are members of that performing rights society.

(2) This section does not prevent any copyright owner from exercising any exclusive rights granted by the copyright laws.

(3) This section does not prohibit the performing rights society or its agents, employees, or representatives from informing the proprietor of obligations imposed under the copyright laws.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2107 Civil action.

Sec. 7. A person suffering injury by a violation of this act may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover actual damages and reasonable attorney's fees or seek injunctive or any other relief available at law or in equity.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

445.2108 Applicability of act.

Sec. 8. This act does not apply to either of the following:

(a) Contracts between performing rights societies and broadcasters licensed by the federal communications commission.

(b) Investigations by a law enforcement agency or other person regarding a suspected violation of 1994 PA 210, MCL 752.1051 to 752.1057.

History: 2000, Act 430, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001.

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