

Stat. 5131; Pub. L. 105-147, §2(b), Dec. 16, 1997, 111 Stat. 2678; Pub. L. 109-9, title I, §103(a), Apr. 27, 2005, 119 Stat. 220; Pub. L. 110-403, title II, §201(a), Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4260.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

HOUSE REPORT NO. 94-1476

Four types of criminal offenses actionable under the bill are listed in section 506: willful infringement for profit, fraudulent use of a copyright notice, fraudulent removal of notice, and false representation in connection with a copyright application. The maximum fine on conviction has been increased to \$10,000 and, in conformity with the general pattern of the Criminal Code (18 U.S.C.), no minimum fines have been provided. In addition to or instead of a fine, conviction for criminal infringement under section 506(a) can carry with it a sentence of imprisonment of up to one year. Section 506(b) deals with seizure, forfeiture, and destruction of material involved in cases of criminal infringement.

Section 506(a) contains a special provision applying to any person who infringes willfully and for purposes of commercial advantage the copyright in a sound recording or a motion picture. For the first such offense a person shall be fined not more than \$25,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. For any subsequent offense a person shall be fined not more than \$50,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-403 amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “When any person is convicted of any violation of subsection (a), the court in its judgment of conviction shall, in addition to the penalty therein prescribed, order the forfeiture and destruction or other disposition of all infringing copies or phonorecords and all implements, devices, or equipment used in the manufacture of such infringing copies or phonorecords.”

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-9 reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Any person who infringes a copyright willfully either—

“(1) for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain, or

“(2) by the reproduction or distribution, including by electronic means, during any 180-day period, of 1 or more copies or phonorecords of 1 or more copyrighted works, which have a total retail value of more than \$1,000,

shall be punished as provided under section 2319 of title 18, United States Code. For purposes of this subsection, evidence of reproduction or distribution of a copyrighted work, by itself, shall not be sufficient to establish willful infringement.”

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-147 amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows:

“(a) CRIMINAL INFRINGEMENT.—Any person who infringes a copyright willfully and for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain shall be punished as provided in section 2319 of title 18.”

1990—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-650 added subsec. (f).

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-180 substituted “shall be punished as provided in section 2319 of title 18” for “shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both: *Provided, however,* That any person who infringes willfully and for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain the copyright in a sound recording afforded by subsections (1), (2), or (3) of section 106 or the copyright in a motion picture afforded by subsections (1), (3), or (4) of section 106 shall be fined not more than \$25,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, for the first such offense and shall be fined not more than \$50,000 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both, for any subsequent offense”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-650 effective 6 months after Dec. 1, 1990, see section 610 of Pub. L. 101-650, set out as an Effective Date note under section 106A of this title.

§ 507. Limitations on actions

(a) CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.—Except as expressly provided otherwise in this title, no criminal proceeding shall be maintained under the provisions of this title unless it is commenced within 5 years after the cause of action arose.

(b) CIVIL ACTIONS.—No civil action shall be maintained under the provisions of this title unless it is commenced within three years after the claim accrued.

(Pub. L. 94-553, title I, §101, Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2586; Pub. L. 105-147, §2(c), Dec. 16, 1997, 111 Stat. 2678; Pub. L. 105-304, title I, §102(e), Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2863.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

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Section 507, which is substantially identical with section 115 of the present law [section 115 of former title 17], establishes a three-year statute of limitations for both criminal proceedings and civil actions. The language of this section, which was adopted by the act of September 7, 1957 (71 Stat. 633) [Pub. L. 85-313, §1, Sept. 7, 1957, 71 Stat. 633], represents a reconciliation of views, and has therefore been left unaltered.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-304 substituted “Except as expressly provided otherwise in this title, no” for “No”.

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-147 substituted “5” for “three”.

§ 508. Notification of filing and determination of actions

(a) Within one month after the filing of any action under this title, the clerks of the courts of the United States shall send written notification to the Register of Copyrights setting forth, as far as is shown by the papers filed in the court, the names and addresses of the parties and the title, author, and registration number of each work involved in the action. If any other copyrighted work is later included in the action by amendment, answer, or other pleading, the clerk shall also send a notification concerning it to the Register within one month after the pleading is filed.

(b) Within one month after any final order or judgment is issued in the case, the clerk of the court shall notify the Register of it, sending with the notification a copy of the order or judgment together with the written opinion, if any, of the court.

(c) Upon receiving the notifications specified in this section, the Register shall make them a part of the public records of the Copyright Office.

(Pub. L. 94-553, title I, §101, Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2586.)