

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

HOUSE REPORT NO. 94-1476

Section 508, which corresponds to some extent with a provision in the patent law (35 U.S.C. 290), is intended to establish a method for notifying the Copyright Office and the public of the filing and disposition of copyright cases. The clerks of the Federal courts are to notify the Copyright Office of the filing of any copyright actions and of their final disposition, and the Copyright Office is to make these notifications a part of its public records.

[§ 509. Repealed. Pub. L. 110-403, title II, § 201(b)(1), Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4260]

Section, Pub. L. 94-553, title I, § 101, Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2587; Pub. L. 105-80, § 12(a)(14), Nov. 13, 1997, 111 Stat. 1535, related to seizure and forfeiture.

§ 510. Remedies for alteration of programming by cable systems

(a) In any action filed pursuant to section 111(c)(3), the following remedies shall be available:

(1) Where an action is brought by a party identified in subsections (b) or (c) of section 501, the remedies provided by sections 502 through 505, and the remedy provided by subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) When an action is brought by a party identified in subsection (d) of section 501, the remedies provided by sections 502 and 505, together with any actual damages suffered by such party as a result of the infringement, and the remedy provided by subsection (b) of this section.

(b) In any action filed pursuant to section 111(c)(3), the court may decree that, for a period not to exceed thirty days, the cable system shall be deprived of the benefit of a statutory license for one or more distant signals carried by such cable system.

(Pub. L. 94-553, title I, § 101, Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2587; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(9) [title I, § 1011(a)(1), (3)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-543.)

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Section 509(b) specifies a new discretionary remedy for alteration of programming by cable systems in violation of section 111(c)(3): the court in such cases may decree that, “for a period not to exceed thirty days, the cable system shall be deprived of the benefit of a compulsory license for one or more distant signals carried by such cable system.” The term “distant signals” in this provision is intended to have a meaning consistent with the definition of “distant signal equivalent” in section 111.

Under section 509(a), four types of plaintiffs are entitled to bring an action in cases of alteration of programming by cable systems in violation of section 111(c)(3). For regular copyright owners and local broadcaster-licensees, the full battery of remedies for infringement would be available. The two new classes of potential plaintiffs under section 501(d)—the distant-signal transmitter and other local stations—would be limited to the following remedies: (i) discretionary injunctions; (ii) discretionary costs and attorney’s fees; (iii) any actual damages the plaintiff can prove were attributable to the act of altering program content; and (iv) the new discretionary remedy of suspension of compulsory licensing.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1999—Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(9) [title I, § 1011(a)(1)], substituted “programming” for “programing” in section catchline.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(9) [title I, § 1011(a)(3)], substituted “statutory” for “compulsory”.

§ 511. Liability of States, instrumentalities of States, and State officials for infringement of copyright

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any State, any instrumentality of a State, and any officer or employee of a State or instrumentality of a State acting in his or her official capacity, shall not be immune, under the Eleventh Amendment of the Constitution of the United States or under any other doctrine of sovereign immunity, from suit in Federal court by any person, including any governmental or nongovernmental entity, for a violation of any of the exclusive rights of a copyright owner provided by sections 106 through 122, for importing copies of phonorecords in violation of section 602, or for any other violation under this title.

(b) REMEDIES.—In a suit described in subsection (a) for a violation described in that subsection, remedies (including remedies both at law and in equity) are available for the violation to the same extent as such remedies are available for such a violation in a suit against any public or private entity other than a State, instrumentality of a State, or officer or employee of a State acting in his or her official capacity. Such remedies include impounding and disposition of infringing articles under section 503, actual damages and profits and statutory damages under section 504, costs and attorney’s fees under section 505, and the remedies provided in section 510.

(Added Pub. L. 101-553, § 2(a)(2), Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2749; amended Pub. L. 106-44, § 1(g)(6), Aug. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 222; Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title III, § 13210(4)(C), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1909.)

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CONSTITUTIONALITY

For information regarding constitutionality of certain provisions of subsection (a) of this section, see Congressional Research Service, *The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation*, Table of Laws Held Unconstitutional in Whole or in Part by the Supreme Court.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-273 substituted “122” for “121”.

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-44 substituted “121” for “119”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective with respect to violations that occur on or after Nov. 15, 1990, see section 3 of Pub. L. 101-553, set out as an Effective Date of 1990 Amendment note under section 501 of this title.

§ 512. Limitations on liability relating to material online

(a) TRANSITORY DIGITAL NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS.—A service provider shall not be liable for