

OCTOBER 20, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 22--Copyright Law Revision. This bill provides for the general revision of the copyright law, title 17 of the United States Code. S. 22 will comprehensively revise the nation's copyright laws for the first time in 67 years.

S. 22, retains the fundamental criteria for copyright protection that are required under existing law.

S. 22 also brings U. S. law into conformity with the preponderance of foreign laws by:

- giving protection to all unpublished works of foreign origin and to published works that meet certain conditions, and
- extending the length of copyright protection from 56 years from publication to the duration of the creator's life plus fifty years.

S. 22 modifies the applicability of copyright protection in four major areas. The bill:

1. sets standards for fair use and reproduction of copyrighted material;
2. provides a new system of compulsory licensing for cable television and jukeboxes while modifying the existing system of performance royalty payments for records;
3. preempts State laws governing copyright material that comes within the scope of the federal law; and
4. repeals, as of 1982, an existing requirement that English-language books and periodicals must be manufactured in the United States.

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