

## HR 1881

American Royalties Too Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Commerce

**Introduced:** Apr 16, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. (May 15, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1881>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Apr 16, 2015
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jul 15, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Commerce

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 977	Related bill	<b>Apr 16, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## **American Royalties Too Act of 2015**

Expands copyright owners' exclusive rights, in the case of a work of visual art, to include the right to collect or authorize the collection of a royalty if the work is sold by a person other than the author for at least \$5,000 in an auction.

Defines "auction" as a public sale of visual art to the highest bidder run by an entity that sold at least \$1 million of works of visual art during the previous year.

Revises the term "work of visual art" to make requirements for photographs consistent with requirements for paintings, drawings, and prints. (Currently, a photograph must be a still photographic image produced for exhibition purposes only.)

Limits the amount of such a royalty to the lesser of: (1) 5% of the purchase price; or (2) \$35,000, subject to cost-of-living adjustments.

Directs entities conducting such auctions to collect and pay the royalties to a visual artists' copyright collecting society. Requires the collecting society, at least four times each year, to distribute the appropriate royalties (minus administrative expenses) to authors or successor copyright owners.

Requires an author of a work of visual art, in order to be eligible to receive such a royalty, to: (1) be a citizen of, or domiciled in, the United States or a country that provides resale royalty rights; or (2) have first created the work in the United States or a country that provides such royalty rights.

Establishes a copyright infringement offense for the failure to pay such a royalty. Subjects infringers to: (1) statutory damages, and (2) liability for the full royalty.

Prohibits the sale, assignment, or waiver of the right to collect such a royalty, subject to exceptions for works made for hire and transfers of copyright ownership.

Directs the Register of Copyrights to issue regulations governing visual artists' copyright collecting societies.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 15, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.