

## S 662

Songwriter Equity Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Commerce

**Introduced:** Mar 4, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 4, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/662>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 4, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Sep 15, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 4, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Commerce

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1283	Identical bill	Mar 31, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

## **Songwriter Equity Act of 2015**

Amends federal copyright law regarding the exclusive rights of sound recording copyright owners to remove a provision that prohibits license fees payable for the public performance of sound recordings, by means of a digital audio transmission, from being taken into account in any administrative, judicial, or other governmental proceeding to set or adjust the royalties payable to copyright owners of musical works for the public performance of their works.

Requires Copyright Royalty Judges (CRJs), when setting royalty rates under the compulsory license available for the reproduction and distribution of musical works (commonly referred to as a "mechanical license"), to establish rates and terms that most clearly represent the rates and terms that would have been negotiated in the marketplace between a willing buyer and seller.

Requires CRJs, in establishing such rates and terms, to base their decision on marketplace, economic, and use information presented by the participants. Allows consideration of comparable uses and circumstances under voluntary license agreements.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 4, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.