

## S 253

American Music Fairness Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Commerce

**Introduced:** Feb 2, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S235) (Feb 2, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/253>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 30, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 2, 2023

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Commerce

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 791	Related bill	<b>Feb 2, 2023:</b> Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

## **American Music Fairness Act**

This bill establishes that the copyright holder of a sound recording shall have the exclusive right to perform the sound recording through an audio transmission. (Currently, the public performance right only covers performances through a digital audio transmission in certain instances, which means that nonsubscription terrestrial radio stations generally do not have to get a license to publicly perform a copyright-protected sound recording.)

Under the bill, a nonsubscription broadcast transmission must have a license to publicly perform such sound recordings. The Copyright Royalty Board must periodically determine the royalty rates for such a license. When determining the rates, the board must base its decision on certain information presented by the parties, including the radio stations' effect on other streams of revenue related to the sound recordings.

Terrestrial broadcast stations (and the owners of such stations) that fall below certain revenue thresholds may pay certain flat fees, instead of the board-established rate, for a license to publicly perform copyright-protected sound recordings.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Feb 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S235)

# LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

## Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

[legilist.com](https://legilist.com)

## Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

[legilist.com/learn](https://legilist.com/learn)

## Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

[legilist.com/api](https://legilist.com/api)

Public data belongs to the public. — [legilist.com](https://legilist.com)