

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2237

AN ACT

To amend chapter 5 of title 17, United States Code, to authorize civil copyright enforcement by the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Intellectual
5 Rights Against Theft and Expropriation Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CIVIL COPYRIGHT ENFORCE-**
2 **MENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 17, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 506 the
5 following:

6 **“§ 506a. Civil penalties for violations of section 506**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may com-
8 mence a civil action in the appropriate United States dis-
9 trict court against any person who engages in conduct con-
10 stituting an offense under section 506. Upon proof of such
11 conduct by a preponderance of the evidence, such person
12 shall be subject to a civil penalty under section 504 which
13 shall be in an amount equal to the amount which would
14 be awarded under section 3663(a)(1)(B) of title 18 and
15 restitution to the copyright owner aggrieved by the con-
16 duct.

17 “(b) OTHER REMEDIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Imposition of a civil pen-
19 alty under this section does not preclude any other
20 criminal or civil statutory, injunctive, common law or
21 administrative remedy, which is available by law to
22 the United States or any other person;

23 “(2) OFFSET.—Any restitution received by a
24 copyright owner as a result of a civil action brought
25 under this section shall be offset against any award
26 of damages in a subsequent copyright infringement

1 civil action by that copyright owner for the conduct
2 that gave rise to the civil action brought under this
3 section.”.

4 (b) DAMAGES AND PROFITS.—Section 504 of title 17,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in the first sentence—

8 (i) by inserting “, or the Attorney
9 General in a civil action,” after “The copy-
10 right owner”; and

11 (ii) by striking “him or her” and in-
12 serting “the copyright owner”; and

13 (B) in the second sentence by inserting “,
14 or the Attorney General in a civil action,” after
15 “the copyright owner”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or the
18 Attorney General in a civil action,” after “the
19 copyright owner”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or
21 the Attorney General in a civil action,” after
22 “the copyright owner”.

23 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

24 The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 17, United

1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
2 ing to section 506 the following:

“506a. Civil penalties for violation of section 506.”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR TRAINING AND**
4 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) TRAINING AND PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than
6 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
7 eral shall develop a program to ensure effective implemen-
8 tation and use of the authority for civil enforcement of
9 the copyright laws by—

10 (1) establishing training programs, including
11 practical training and written materials, for qualified
12 personnel from the Department of Justice and
13 United States Attorneys Offices to educate and in-
14 form such personnel about—

15 (A) resource information on intellectual
16 property and the legal framework established
17 both to protect and encourage creative works as
18 well as legitimate uses of information and
19 rights under the first amendment of the United
20 States Constitution;

21 (B) the technological challenges to pro-
22 tecting digital copyrighted works from online pi-
23 racy;

24 (C) guidance on and support for bringing
25 copyright enforcement actions against persons

1 engaging in infringing conduct, including model
2 charging documents and related litigation mate-
3 rials;

4 (D) strategic issues in copyright enforce-
5 ment actions, including whether to proceed in a
6 criminal or a civil action;

7 (E) how to employ and leverage the exper-
8 tise of technical experts in computer forensics;

9 (F) the collection and preservation of elec-
10 tronic data in a forensically sound manner for
11 use in court proceedings;

12 (G) the role of the victim copyright owner
13 in providing relevant information for enforce-
14 ment actions and in the computation of dam-
15 ages; and

16 (H) the appropriate use of injunctions, im-
17 poundment, forfeiture, and related authorities
18 in copyright law;

19 (2) designating personnel from at least 4
20 United States Attorneys Offices to participate in a
21 pilot program designed to implement the civil en-
22 forcement authority of the Attorney General under
23 section 506a of title 17, United States Code, as
24 added by this Act; and

25 (3) reporting to Congress annually on—

1 (A) the use of the civil enforcement au-
2 thority of the Attorney General under section
3 506a of title 17, United States Code, as added
4 by this Act; and

5 (B) the progress made in implementing the
6 training and pilot programs described under
7 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

8 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The report under subsection
9 (a)(3) may be included in the annual performance report
10 of the Department of Justice and shall include—

11 (1) with respect to civil actions filed under sec-
12 tion 506a of title 17, United States Code, as added
13 by this Act—

14 (A) the number of investigative matters re-
15 ceived by the Department of Justice and United
16 States Attorneys Offices;

17 (B) the number of defendants involved in
18 those matters;

19 (C) the number of civil actions filed and
20 the number of defendants involved;

21 (D) the number of civil actions resolved or
22 terminated;

23 (E) the number of defendants involved in
24 those civil actions;

1 (F) the disposition of those civil actions,
2 including whether the civil actions were settled,
3 dismissed, or resolved after a trial;

4 (G) the dollar value of any civil penalty im-
5 posed and the amount remitted to any copy-
6 right owner; and

7 (H) other information that the Attorney
8 General may consider relevant to inform Con-
9 gress on the effective use of the civil enforce-
10 ment authority;

11 (2) a description of the training program and
12 the number of personnel who participated in the pro-
13 gram; and

14 (3) the locations of the United States Attorneys
15 Offices designated to participate in the pilot pro-
16 gram.

17 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal
19 year 2005 to carry out this section.

Passed the Senate June 25, 2004.

Attest:

Secretary.

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