



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 12, 1997

**H.R. 672**

**An act to make technical amendments to certain provisions of  
Title 17, United States Code**

*As cleared by the Congress on November 4, 1997*

H.R. 672 would amend the United States Copyright Act to make numerous technical corrections and clarifications. The act would affect direct spending and receipts. CBO estimates, however, that the act would not have a significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 672 would authorize the Copyright Office to set existing user fees (which are recorded as offsetting collections) according to the fair cost of registering copyright claims and providing services. Based on information from the Copyright Office, CBO expects that the agency would conduct a study on fees in fiscal year 1998 and increase fees for fiscal year 1999. The Copyright Office could collect and spend the additional user fees without further authorization in an appropriation act. Because the increase in spending would be the same amount as the fees collected, the net impact of those fees on direct spending would be roughly zero in each year.

H.R. 672 would make a number of other changes that would affect the administration of copyright arbitration royalty panels (CARPs) and the distribution of royalties (which are recorded as governmental receipts) to copyright owners. The act would authorize the Library of Congress to pay for the expenses of CARPs from the royalties collected by the government. CBO estimates that this provision would have no budgetary impact because it would not affect the amount of royalties collected or the total amount of money disbursed by the government, but would result in a slightly different allocation of the royalties. The act also would authorize the Library of Congress to bill the parties to a ratemaking proceeding for the administrative expenses incurred by the Library and the Copyright Office and spend the collections without further authorization. Based on information from the Copyright Office, CBO estimates that the collections and spending of such fees would not be significant.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Rachel Forward. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Director for Budget Analysis.