

November 1, 2018

Music Modernization Act on the Music Industry

The Music Modernization Act (“MMA”) was signed into law on October 11, 2018. This law represents one of the most significant overhauls of federal copyright law in recent decades. The MMA’s impact will be most felt by songwriters, musicians, internet radio stations, downloadable song libraries and other licensing entities. The aim of MMA is to remedy certain loopholes by streamlining and reducing the potential liabilities associated with the licensing of music compositions and music sound recordings.

To simplify the process, the MMA mandates the creation of a centrally controlled licensing agency that will provide a uniform “mechanical license” for the music industry. Current license industry leaders have 90 days to formulate the structure of this new agency.

The MMA also allows for copyright protection of sound recordings made prior to 1972 and provides for royalties to producers of sound recordings.

In short, the MMA provides a more secure framework for large digital music libraries.