



**OP 91.203: 1976 COPYRIGHT ACT AS RELATED TO
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

PURPOSE

To provide consistent guidelines to ensure that university student organizations comply with the provisions of Public Law 94-553.

POLICY

Federal law requires non-profit institutions to pay copyright royalties for musical performances through the performing rights of organizations (BMI, ASCAP, SESAC, GMR) that license public performances of musical works on behalf of the copyright owners. The law covers any performance of copyrighted music where an artist(s) is(are) paid. Permission must be secured whether the work is performed by live musicians, on records, tapes, or any other mechanical means. Copyright violators are liable for a minimum fine of \$250 with a maximum of \$10,000 plus profits, court costs, and attorney fees. It is the policy of the university that all student organizations comply with the provisions of Public Law 94-553.

PROCEDURE

To ensure compliance with the provisions of Public Law 94-553, all student organizations must accomplish the following steps:

1. The Mississippi State University Contract Rider, which states wages and agreements, will be signed by the organization officer(s) and the performer's agent.
2. The university, in order to be in compliance with this law, cannot approve any functions involving music unless the above step has been accomplished.

REVIEW

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for the review of this operating policy every four years or as needed.

REVIEWED BY

/s/ Regina Young Hyatt
Vice President for Student Affairs

6/3/2022
Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham
Assistant Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness

6/3/2022
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas
General Counsel

6/14/2022
Date

APPROVED BY

/s/ Mark E. Keenum
President

6/27/2022
Date