AMENDMENT TO ______
OFFERED BY M_. _________

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Subtitle A—Copyrights

SEC. 211. UNAUTHORIZED STREAMING.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2319B the following:

“§ 2319C. Illicit digital transmission services

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—


“(2) the term ‘digital transmission service’ means a service that has the primary purpose of publicly performing works by digital transmission;
“(3) the terms ‘publicly perform’ and ‘public performance’ refer to the exclusive rights of a copyright owner under paragraphs (4) and (6) of section 106 (relating to exclusive rights in copyrighted works) of title 17, as limited by sections 107 through 122 of title 17; and

“(4) the term ‘work being prepared for commercial public performance’ means—

“(A) a computer program, a musical work, a motion picture or other audiovisual work, or a sound recording, if, at the time of unauthorized public performance—

“(i) the copyright owner has a reasonable expectation of commercial public performance; and

“(ii) the copies or phonorecords of the work have not been commercially publicly performed in the United States by or with the authorization of the copyright owner; or

“(B) a motion picture, if, at the time of unauthorized public performance, the motion picture—
“(i)(I) has been made available for viewing in a motion picture exhibition facility; and

“(II) has not been made available in copies for sale to the general public in the United States by or with the authorization of the copyright owner in a format intended to permit viewing outside a motion picture exhibition facility; or

“(ii) had not been commercially publicly performed in the United States by or with the authorization of the copyright owner more than 24 hours before the unauthorized public performance.

“(b) PROHIBITED ACT.—It shall be unlawful for a person to willfully, and for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain, offer or provide to the public a digital transmission service that—

“(1) is primarily designed or provided for the purpose of publicly performing works protected under title 17 by means of a digital transmission without the authority of the copyright owner or the law;

“(2) has no commercially significant purpose or use other than to publicly perform works protected
under title 17 by means of a digital transmission
without the authority of the copyright owner or the
law; or

“(3) is intentionally marketed by or at the di-
rection of that person to promote its use in publicly
performing works protected under title 17 by means
of a digital transmission without the authority of the
copyright owner or the law.

“(e) Penalties.—Any person who violates sub-
section (b) shall be, in addition to any penalties provided
for under title 17 or any other law—

“(1) fined under this title, imprisoned not more
than 3 years, or both;

“(2) fined under this title, imprisoned not more
than 5 years, or both, if—

“(A) the offense was committed in connec-
tion with 1 or more works being prepared for
commercial public performance; and

“(B) the person knew or should have
known that the work was being prepared for
commercial public performance; and

“(3) fined under this title, imprisoned not more
than 10 years, or both, if the offense is a second or
subsequent offense under this section or section
2319(a).
“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) affect the interpretation of any other provision of civil copyright law, including the limitations of liability set forth in section 512 of title 17, or principles of secondary liability; or

“(2) prevent any Federal or State authority from enforcing cable theft or theft of service laws that are not subject to preemption under section 301 of title 17.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of section for chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2319B the following:

“2319C. Illicit digital transmission services.”.

SEC. 212. COPYRIGHT SMALL CLAIMS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2020” or the “CASE Act of 2020”.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Title 17, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 15—COPYRIGHT SMALL CLAIMS

“1502. Copyright Claims Board.
“1503. Authority and duties of the Copyright Claims Board.
“1505. Registration requirement.”
“$1501. Definitions

“In this chapter—

“(1) the term ‘claimant’ means the real party in interest that commences a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board under section 1506(e), pursuant to a permissible claim of infringement brought under section 1504(c)(1), noninfringement brought under section 1504(c)(2), or misrepresentation brought under section 1504(c)(3);

“(2) the term ‘counterclaimant’ means a respondent in a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board that—

“(A) asserts a permissible counterclaim under section 1504(c)(4) against the claimant in the proceeding; and

“(B) is the real party in interest with respect to the counterclaim described in subparagraph (A);

“(3) the term ‘party’—

“(A) means a party; and

“(B) includes the attorney of a party, as applicable; and
“(4) the term ‘respondent’ means any person against whom a proceeding is brought before the Copyright Claims Board under section 1506(e), pursuant to a permissible claim of infringement brought under section 1504(c)(1), noninfringement brought under section 1504(c)(2), or misrepresentation brought under section 1504(c)(3).

§ 1502. Copyright Claims Board

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Copyright Office the Copyright Claims Board, which shall serve as an alternative forum in which parties may voluntarily seek to resolve certain copyright claims regarding any category of copyrighted work, as provided in this chapter.

“(b) OFFICERS AND STAFF.—

“(1) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS OFFICERS.—The Register of Copyrights shall recommend 3 full-time Copyright Claims Officers to serve on the Copyright Claims Board in accordance with paragraph (3)(A). The Officers shall be appointed by the Librarian of Congress to such positions after consultation with the Register of Copyrights.

“(2) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS ATTORNEYS.—The Register of Copyrights shall hire not fewer than 2 full-time Copyright Claims Attorneys to assist in the administration of the Copyright Claims Board.
“(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—

“(A) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS OFFICERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each Copyright Claims Officer shall be an attorney who has not fewer than 7 years of legal experience.

“(ii) EXPERIENCE.—Two of the Copyright Claims Officers shall—

“(I) have substantial experience in the evaluation, litigation, or adjudication of copyright infringement claims; and

“(II) between those 2 Officers, have represented or presided over a diversity of copyright interests, including those of both owners and users of copyrighted works.

“(iii) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—The Copyright Claims Officer not described in clause (ii) shall have substantial familiarity with copyright law and experience in the field of alternative dispute resolution, including the resolution of litigation matters through that method of resolution.
“(B) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS ATTORNEYS.—

Each Copyright Claims Attorney shall be an attorney who has not fewer than 3 years of substantial experience in copyright law.

“(4) COMPENSATION.—

“(A) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS OFFICERS.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘senior level employee of the Federal Government’ means an employee, other than an employee in the Senior Executive Service, the position of whom is classified above GS–15 of the General Schedule.

“(ii) PAY RANGE.—Each Copyright Claims Officer shall be compensated at a rate of pay that is not less than the minimum, and not more than the maximum, rate of pay payable for senior level employees of the Federal Government, including locality pay, as applicable.

“(B) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS ATTORNEYS.—

Each Copyright Claims Attorney shall be compensated at a rate of pay that is not more than the maximum rate of pay payable for level 10
of GS–15 of the General Schedule, including locality pay, as applicable.

“(5) TERMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), a Copyright Claims Officer shall serve for a renewable term of 6 years.

“(B) INITIAL TERMS.—The terms for the first Copyright Claims Officers appointed under this chapter shall be as follows:

“(i) The first such Copyright Claims Officer appointed shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

“(ii) The second Copyright Claims Officer appointed shall be appointed for a term of 5 years.

“(iii) The third Copyright Claims Officer appointed shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

“(6) VACANCIES AND INCAPACITY.—

“(A) VACANCY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a vacancy occurs in the position of a Copyright Claims Officer, the Librarian of Congress shall, upon the recommendation of, and in consultation with, the Register of Copyrights,
act expeditiously to appoint a Copyright Claims Officer for that position.

“(ii) VACANCY BEFORE EXPIRATION.—An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the individual was appointed shall be appointed to serve a 6-year term.

“(B) INCAPACITY.—If a Copyright Claims Officer is temporarily unable to perform the duties of the Officer, the Librarian of Congress shall, upon recommendation of, and in consultation with, the Register of Copyrights, act expeditiously to appoint an interim Copyright Claims Officer to perform such duties during the period of such incapacity.

“(7) SANCTION OR REMOVAL.—Subject to section 1503(b), the Librarian of Congress may sanction or remove a Copyright Claims Officer.

“(8) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Register of Copyrights shall provide the Copyright Claims Officers and Copyright Claims Attorneys with necessary administrative support, including technological facilities, to carry out the duties of the Officers and Attorneys under this chapter.
(9) LOCATION OF COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD.—The offices and facilities of the Copyright Claims Officers and Copyright Claims Attorneys shall be located at the Copyright Office.

§ 1503. Authority and duties of the Copyright Claims Board

(a) FUNCTIONS.—

(1) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS OFFICERS.—Subject to the provisions of this chapter and applicable regulations, the functions of the Copyright Claims Officers shall be as follows:

(A) To render determinations on the civil copyright claims, counterclaims, and defenses that may be brought before the Officers under this chapter.

(B) To ensure that claims, counterclaims, and defenses are properly asserted and otherwise appropriate for resolution by the Copyright Claims Board.

(C) To manage the proceedings before the Officers and render rulings pertaining to the consideration of claims, counterclaims, and defenses, including with respect to scheduling, discovery, evidentiary, and other matters.
“(D) To request, from participants and nonparticipants in a proceeding, the production of information and documents relevant to the resolution of a claim, counterclaim, or defense.

“(E) To conduct hearings and conferences.

“(F) To facilitate the settlement by the parties of claims and counterclaims.

“(G) To—

“(i) award monetary relief; and

“(ii) include in the determinations of the Officers a requirement that certain activities under section 1504(e)(2) cease or be mitigated, if the party to undertake the applicable measure has so agreed.

“(H) To provide information to the public concerning the procedures and requirements of the Copyright Claims Board.

“(I) To maintain records of the proceedings before the Officers, certify official records of such proceedings as needed, and, as provided in section 1506(t), make the records in such proceedings available to the public.

“(J) To carry out such other duties as are set forth in this chapter.
“(K) When not engaged in performing the
duties of the Officers set forth in this chapter,
to perform such other duties as may be as-
signed by the Register of Copyrights.

“(2) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS ATTORNEYS.—Subject
to the provisions of this chapter and applicable regu-
lations, the functions of the Copyright Claims Attor-
neys shall be as follows:

“(A) To provide assistance to the Copy-
right Claims Officers in the administration of
the duties of those Officers under this chapter.

“(B) To provide assistance to members of
the public with respect to the procedures and
requirements of the Copyright Claims Board.

“(C) To provide information to potential
claimants contemplating bringing a permissible
action before the Copyright Claims Board about
obtaining a subpoena under section 512(h) for
the sole purpose of identifying a potential re-
spondent in such an action.

“(D) When not engaged in performing the
duties of the Attorneys set forth in this chapter,
to perform such other duties as may be as-
signed by the Register of Copyrights.

“(b) INDEPENDENCE IN DETERMINATIONS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Copyright Claims Board shall render the determinations of the Board in individual proceedings independently on the basis of the records in the proceedings before it and in accordance with the provisions of this title, judicial precedent, and applicable regulations of the Register of Copyrights.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—The Copyright Claims Officers and Copyright Claims Attorneys—

“(A) may consult with the Register of Copyrights on general issues of law; and

“(B) subject to section 1506(x), may not consult with the Register of Copyrights with respect to—

“(i) the facts of any particular matter pending before the Officers and the Attorneys; or

“(ii) the application of law to the facts described in clause (i).

“(3) PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any regulation or policy of the Library of Congress or Register of Copyrights, any performance appraisal of a Copyright Claims Officer or Copyright Claims Attorney may not consider the substantive result of any indi-
vidual determination reached by the Copyright Claims Board as a basis for appraisal except to the extent that the result may relate to any actual or alleged violation of an ethical standard of conduct.

“(c) DIRECTION BY REGISTER.—Subject to subsection (b), the Copyright Claims Officers and Copyright Claims Attorneys shall, in the administration of their duties, be under the general direction of the Register of Copyrights.

“(d) INCONSISTENT DUTIES BARRED.—A Copyright Claims Officer or Copyright Claims Attorney may not undertake any duty that conflicts with the duties of the Officer or Attorney in connection with the Copyright Claims Board.

“(e) RECUSAL.—A Copyright Claims Officer or Copyright Claims Attorney shall recuse himself or herself from participation in any proceeding with respect to which the Copyright Claims Officer or Copyright Claims Attorney, as the case may be, has reason to believe that he or she has a conflict of interest.

“(f) EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.—Except as may otherwise be permitted by applicable law, any party to a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board shall refrain from ex parte communications with the Copyright Claims Officers and the Register of Copyrights concerning
the substance of any active or pending proceeding before
the Copyright Claims Board.

“(g) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Actions of the Copyright
Claims Officers and Register of Copyrights under this
chapter in connection with the rendering of any deter-
mination are subject to judicial review as provided under
section 1508(c) and not under chapter 7 of title 5.

“§ 1504. Nature of proceedings

“(a) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in
a Copyright Claims Board proceeding shall be on a vol-
untary basis in accordance with this chapter, and the right
of any party to instead pursue a claim, counterclaim, or
defense in a district court of the United States, any other
court, or any other forum, and to seek a jury trial, shall
be preserved. The rights, remedies, and limitations under
this section may not be waived except in accordance with
this chapter.

“(b) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A proceeding may not be
maintained before the Copyright Claims Board un-
less the proceeding is commenced, in accordance
with section 1506(e), before the Copyright Claims
Board not later than 3 years after the claim ac-
crued.
“(2) TOLLING.—Subject to section 1507(a), a proceeding commenced before the Copyright Claims Board shall toll the time permitted under section 507(b) for the commencement of an action on the same claim in a district court of the United States during the period in which the proceeding is pending.

“(c) PERMISSIBLE CLAIMS, COUNTERCLAIMS, AND DEFENSES.—The Copyright Claims Board may render determinations with respect to the following claims, counterclaims, and defenses, subject to such further limitations and requirements, including with respect to particular classes of works, as may be set forth in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights:

“(1) A claim for infringement of an exclusive right in a copyrighted work provided under section 106 by the legal or beneficial owner of the exclusive right at the time of the infringement for which the claimant seeks damages, if any, within the limitations set forth in subsection (e)(1).

“(2) A claim for a declaration of noninfringement of an exclusive right in a copyrighted work provided under section 106, consistent with section 2201 of title 28.
“(3) A claim under section 512(f) for misrepresentation in connection with a notification of claimed infringement or a counter notification seeking to replace removed or disabled material, except that any remedies relating to such a claim in a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board shall be limited to those available under this chapter.

“(4) A counterclaim that is asserted solely against the claimant in a proceeding—

“(A) pursuant to which the counterclaimant seeks damages, if any, within the limitations set forth in subsection (e)(1); and

“(B) that—

“(i) arises under section 106 or section 512(f) and out of the same transaction or occurrence that is the subject of a claim of infringement brought under paragraph (1), a claim of noninfringement brought under paragraph (2), or a claim of misrepresentation brought under paragraph (3); or

“(ii) arises under an agreement pertaining to the same transaction or occurrence that is the subject of a claim of infringement brought under paragraph (1),
if the agreement could affect the relief awarded to the claimant.

“(5) A legal or equitable defense under this title or otherwise available under law, in response to a claim or counterclaim asserted under this subsection.

“(6) A single claim or multiple claims permitted under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) by 1 or more claimants against 1 or more respondents, but only if all claims asserted in any 1 proceeding arise out of the same allegedly infringing activity or continuous course of infringing activities and do not, in the aggregate, result in the recovery of such claim or claims for damages that exceed the limitations under subsection (e)(1).

“(d) EXCLUDED CLAIMS.—The following claims and counterclaims are not subject to determination by the Copyright Claims Board:

“(1) A claim or counterclaim that is not a permissible claim or counterclaim under subsection (c).

“(2) A claim or counterclaim that has been finally adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction or that is pending before a court of competent jurisdiction, unless that court has granted a stay to permit that claim or counterclaim to proceed before the Copyright Claims Board.
“(3) A claim or counterclaim by or against a Federal or State governmental entity.

“(4) A claim or counterclaim asserted against a person or entity residing outside of the United States, except in a case in which the person or entity initiated the proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board and is subject to counterclaims under this chapter.

“(e) PERMISSIBLE REMEDIES.—

“(1) MONETARY RECOVERY.—

“(A) ACTUAL DAMAGES, PROFITS, AND STATUTORY DAMAGES FOR INFRINGEMENT.—

With respect to a claim or counterclaim for infringement of copyright, and subject to the limitation on total monetary recovery under subparagraph (D), the Copyright Claims Board may award either of the following:

“(i) Actual damages and profits determined in accordance with section 504(b), with that award taking into consideration, in appropriate cases, whether the infringing party has agreed to cease or mitigate the infringing activity under paragraph (2).
“(ii) Statutory damages, which shall be determined in accordance with section 504(c), subject to the following conditions:

“(I) With respect to works timely registered under section 412, so that the works are eligible for an award of statutory damages in accordance with that section, the statutory damages may not exceed $15,000 for each work infringed.

“(II) With respect to works not timely registered under section 412, but eligible for an award of statutory damages under this section, statutory damages may not exceed $7,500 per work infringed, or a total of $15,000 in any 1 proceeding.

“(III) The Copyright Claims Board may not make any finding that, or consider whether, the infringement was committed willfully in making an award of statutory damages.

“(IV) The Copyright Claims Board may consider, as an additional
factor in awarding statutory damages,
whether the infringer has agreed to cease or mitigate the infringing activity under paragraph (2).

“(B) ELECTION OF DAMAGES.—With respect to a claim or counterclaim of infringement, at any time before final determination is rendered, and notwithstanding the schedule established by the Copyright Claims Board under section 1506(k), the claimant or counterclaimant shall elect—

“(i) to recover actual damages and profits or statutory damages under subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) not to recover damages.

“(C) DAMAGES FOR OTHER CLAIMS.—Damages for claims and counterclaims other than infringement claims, such as those brought under section 512(f), shall be subject to the limitation under subparagraph (D).

“(D) LIMITATION ON TOTAL MONETARY RECOVERY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a party that pursues any 1 or more claims or counterclaims in any single proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board may
not seek or recover in that proceeding a total
monetary recovery that exceeds the sum of
$30,000, exclusive of any attorneys’ fees and
costs that may be awarded under section
1506(y)(2).

“(2) AGREEMENT TO CEASE CERTAIN ACTIVITY.—In a determination of the Copyright Claims
Board, the Board shall include a requirement to cease conduct if, in the proceeding relating to the
determination—

“(A) a party agrees—

“(i) to cease activity that is found to be infringing, including removing or dis-
abling access to, or destroying, infringing materials; or

“(ii) to cease sending a takedown no-
tice or counter notice under section 512 to the other party regarding the conduct at
issue before the Board if that notice or counter notice was found to be a knowing
material misrepresentation under section 512(f); and

“(B) the agreement described in subpara-
graph (A) is reflected in the record for the pro-
ceeding.
“(3) ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except in the case of bad faith conduct as provided in section 1506(y)(2), the parties to proceedings before the Copyright Claims Board shall bear their own attorneys’ fees and costs.

“(f) JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.—Parties to a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board may be found jointly and severally liable if all such parties and relevant claims or counterclaims arise from the same activity or activities.

“(g) PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF CASES.—The Register of Copyrights may establish regulations relating to the permitted number of proceedings each year by the same claimant under this chapter, in the interests of justice and the administration of the Copyright Claims Board.

§ 1505. Registration requirement

“(a) APPLICATION OR CERTIFICATE.—A claim or counterclaim alleging infringement of an exclusive right in a copyrighted work may not be asserted before the Copyright Claims Board unless—

“(1) the legal or beneficial owner of the copyright has first delivered a completed application, a
deposit, and the required fee for registration of the
copyright to the Copyright Office; and

“(2) a registration certificate has either been
issued or has not been refused.

“(b) CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.—Notwith-
standing any other provision of law, a claimant or counter-
claimant in a proceeding before the Copyright Claims
Board shall be eligible to recover actual damages and prof-
its or statutory damages under this chapter for infringe-
ment of a work if the requirements of subsection (a) have
been met, except that—

“(1) the Copyright Claims Board may not
render a determination in the proceeding until—

“(A) a registration certificate with respect
to the work has been issued by the Copyright
Office, submitted to the Copyright Claims
Board, and made available to the other parties
to the proceeding; and

“(B) the other parties to the proceeding
have been provided an opportunity to address
the registration certificate;

“(2) if the proceeding may not proceed further
because a registration certificate for the work is
pending, the proceeding shall be held in abeyance
pending submission of the certificate to the Copy-
right Claims Board, except that, if the proceeding is
held in abeyance for more than 1 year, the Copy-
right Claims Board may, upon providing written no-
tice to the parties to the proceeding, and 30 days to
the parties to respond to the notice, dismiss the pro-
ceeding without prejudice; and

“(3) if the Copyright Claims Board receives no-
tice that registration with respect to the work has
been refused, the proceeding shall be dismissed with-
out prejudice.

“(c) PRESUMPTION.—In a case in which a registra-
tion certificate shows that registration with respect to a
work was issued not later than 5 years after the date of
the first publication of the work, the presumption under
section 410(c) shall apply in a proceeding before the Copy-
right Claims Board, in addition to relevant principles of
law under this title.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—In order to ensure that actions
before the Copyright Claims Board proceed in a timely
manner, the Register of Copyrights shall establish regula-
tions allowing the Copyright Office to make a decision,
on an expedited basis, to issue or deny copyright registra-
tion for an unregistered work that is at issue before the
Board.
§ 1506. Conduct of proceedings

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) APPLICABLE LAW.—Proceedings of the Copyright Claims Board shall be conducted in accordance with this chapter and regulations established by the Register of Copyrights under this chapter, in addition to relevant principles of law under this title.

(2) CONFLICTING PRECEDENT.—If it appears that there may be conflicting judicial precedent on an issue of substantive copyright law that cannot be reconciled, the Copyright Claims Board shall follow the law of the Federal jurisdiction in which the action could have been brought if filed in a district court of the United States, or, if the action could have been brought in more than 1 such jurisdiction, the jurisdiction that the Copyright Claims Board determines has the most significant ties to the parties and conduct at issue.

(b) RECORD.—The Copyright Claims Board shall maintain records documenting the proceedings before the Board.

(c) CENTRALIZED PROCESS.—Proceedings before the Copyright Claims Board shall—
“(1) be conducted at the offices of the Copyright Claims Board without the requirement of in-person appearances by parties or others; and

“(2) take place by means of written submissions, hearings, and conferences carried out through internet-based applications and other telecommunications facilities, except that, in cases in which physical or other nontestimonial evidence material to a proceeding cannot be furnished to the Copyright Claims Board through available telecommunications facilities, the Copyright Claims Board may make alternative arrangements for the submission of such evidence that do not prejudice any other party to the proceeding.

“(d) REPRESENTATION.—A party to a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board may be, but is not required to be, represented by—

“(1) an attorney; or

“(2) a law student who is qualified under applicable law governing representation by law students of parties in legal proceedings and who provides such representation on a pro bono basis.

“(e) COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDING.—In order to commence a proceeding under this chapter, a claimant shall, subject to such additional requirements as may be
prescribed in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights, file a claim with the Copyright Claims Board, that—

“(1) includes a statement of material facts in support of the claim;

“(2) is certified under subsection (y)(1); and

“(3) is accompanied by a filing fee in such amount as may be prescribed in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights.

“(f) REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS.—

“(1) CLAIMS.—Upon the filing of a claim under subsection (e), the claim shall be reviewed by a Copyright Claims Attorney to ensure that the claim complies with this chapter and applicable regulations, subject to the following:

“(A) If the claim is found to comply, the claimant shall be notified regarding that compliance and instructed to proceed with service of the claim under subsection (g).

“(B) If the claim is found not to comply, the claimant shall be notified that the claim is deficient and be permitted to file an amended claim not later than 30 days after the date on which the claimant receives the notice, without the requirement of an additional filing fee. If
the claimant files a compliant claim within that
30-day period, the claimant shall be so notified
and be instructed to proceed with service of the
claim. If the claim is refiled within that 30-day
period and still fails to comply, the claimant
shall again be notified that the claim is defi-
cient and shall be provided a second oppor-
tunity to amend the claim not later than 30
days after the date of that second notice, with-
out the requirement of an additional filing fee.
If the claim is refiled again within that second
30-day period and is compliant, the claimant
shall be so notified and shall be instructed to
proceed with service of the claim, but if the
claim still fails to comply, upon confirmation of
such nonecompliance by a Copyright Claims Of-
fer, the proceeding shall be dismissed without
prejudice. The Copyright Claims Board shall
also dismiss without prejudice any proceeding
in which a compliant claim is not filed within
the applicable 30-day period.

“(C)(i) Subject to clause (ii), for purposes
of this paragraph, a claim against an online
service provider for infringement by reason of
the storage of or referral or linking to infring-
ing material that may be subject to the limitations on liability set forth in subsection (b), (e), or (d) of section 512 shall be considered non-compliant unless the claimant affirms in the statement required under subsection (e)(1) of this section that the claimant has previously notified the service provider of the claimed infringement in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(E), (e)(3), or (d)(3) of section 512, as applicable, and the service provider failed to remove or disable access to the material expeditiously upon the provision of such notice.

“(ii) If a claim is found to be noncompliant under clause (i), the Copyright Claims Board shall provide the claimant with information concerning the service of such a notice under the applicable provision of section 512.

“(2) COUNTERCLAIMS.—Upon the filing and service of a counterclaim, the counterclaim shall be reviewed by a Copyright Claims Attorney to ensure that the counterclaim complies with the provisions of this chapter and applicable regulations. If the counterclaim is found not to comply, the counterclaimant and the other parties to the proceeding shall be notified that the counterclaim is deficient, and the
counterclaimant shall be permitted to file and serve
an amended counterclaim not later than 30 days
after the date of such notice. If the counterclaimant
files and serves a compliant counterclaim within that
30-day period, the counterclaimant and such other
parties shall be so notified. If the counterclaim is
refiled and served within that 30-day period but still
fails to comply, the counterclaimant and such other
parties shall again be notified that the counterclaim
is deficient, and the counterclaimant shall be pro-
vided a second opportunity to amend the counter-
claim not later than 30 days after the date of the
second notice. If the counterclaim is refiled and
served again within that second 30-day period and
is compliant, the counterclaimant and such other
parties shall be so notified, but if the counterclaim
still fails to comply, upon confirmation of such non-
compliance by a Copyright Claims Officer, the coun-
terclaim, but not the proceeding, shall be dismissed
without prejudice.

“(3) DISMISSAL FOR UNSUITABILITY.—The
Copyright Claims Board shall dismiss a claim or
counterclaim without prejudice if, upon reviewing
the claim or counterclaim, or at any other time in
the proceeding, the Copyright Claims Board con-
cludes that the claim or counterclaim is unsuitable for determination by the Copyright Claims Board, including on account of any of the following:

“(A) The failure to join a necessary party.

“(B) The lack of an essential witness, evidence, or expert testimony.

“(C) The determination of a relevant issue of law or fact that could exceed either the number of proceedings the Copyright Claims Board could reasonably administer or the subject matter competence of the Copyright Claims Board.

“(g) SERVICE OF NOTICE AND CLAIMS.—In order to proceed with a claim against a respondent, a claimant shall, not later than 90 days after receiving notification under subsection (f) to proceed with service, file with the Copyright Claims Board proof of service on the respondent. In order to effectuate service on a respondent, the claimant shall cause notice of the proceeding and a copy of the claim to be served on the respondent, either by personal service or pursuant to a waiver of personal service, as prescribed in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights. Such regulations shall include the following requirements:

“(1) The notice of the proceeding shall adhere to a prescribed form and shall set forth the nature
of the Copyright Claims Board and proceeding, the right of the respondent to opt out, and the consequences of opting out and not opting out, including a prominent statement that, by not opting out within 60 days after receiving the notice, the respondent—

“(A) loses the opportunity to have the dispute decided by a court created under article III of the Constitution of the United States; and

“(B) waives the right to a jury trial regarding the dispute.

“(2) The copy of the claim served on the respondent shall be the same as the claim that was filed with the Copyright Claims Board.

“(3) Personal service of a notice and claim may be effected by an individual who is not a party to the proceeding and is older than 18 years of age.

“(4) An individual, other than a minor or incompetent individual, may be served by—

“(A) complying with State law for serving a summons in an action brought in courts of general jurisdiction in the State where service is made;
“(B) delivering a copy of the notice and claim to the individual personally;

“(C) leaving a copy of the notice and claim at the individual’s dwelling or usual place of abode with someone of suitable age and discretion who resides there; or

“(D) delivering a copy of the notice and claim to an agent designated by the respondent to receive service of process or, if not so designated, an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process.

“(5)(A) A corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association that is subject to suit in courts of general jurisdiction under a common name shall be served by delivering a copy of the notice and claim to its service agent. If such service agent has not been designated, service shall be accomplished—

“(i) by complying with State law for serving a summons in an action brought in courts of general jurisdiction in the State where service is made; or

“(ii) by delivering a copy of the notice and claim to an officer, a managing or general agent, or any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of proce-
ess in an action brought in courts of general jurisdic-
tion in the State where service is made and, if the agent is one authorized by statute and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy of the notice and claim to the respondent.

“(B) A corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association that is subject to suit in courts of general jurisdiction under a common name may elect to designate a service agent to receive notice of a claim against it before the Copyright Claims Board by complying with requirements that the Register of Copyrights shall establish by regulation. The Register of Copyrights shall maintain a current directory of service agents that is available to the public for inspection, including through the internet, and may require such corporations, partnerships, and unincorporated associations designating such service agents to pay a fee to cover the costs of maintaining the directory.

“(6) In order to request a waiver of personal service, the claimant may notify a respondent, by first class mail or by other reasonable means, that a proceeding has been commenced, such notice to be made in accordance with regulations established by the Register of Copyrights, subject to the following:
“(A) Any such request shall be in writing, shall be addressed to the respondent, and shall be accompanied by a prescribed notice of the proceeding, a copy of the claim as filed with the Copyright Claims Board, a prescribed form for waiver of personal service, and a prepaid or other means of returning the form without cost.

“(B) The request shall state the date on which the request is sent, and shall provide the respondent a period of 30 days, beginning on the date on which the request is sent, to return the waiver form signed by the respondent. The signed waiver form shall, for purposes of this subsection, constitute acceptance and proof of service as of the date on which the waiver is signed.

“(7)(A) A respondent’s waiver of personal service shall not constitute a waiver of the respondent’s right to opt out of the proceeding.

“(B) A respondent who timely waives personal service under paragraph (6) and does not opt out of the proceeding shall be permitted a period of 30 days, in addition to the period otherwise permitted under the applicable procedures of the Copyright
Claims Board, to submit a substantive response to the claim, including any defenses and counterclaims.

“(8) A minor or an incompetent individual may only be served by complying with State law for serving a summons or like process on such an individual in an action brought in the courts of general jurisdiction of the State where service is made.

“(9) Service of a claim and waiver of personal service may only be effected within the United States.

“(h) Notification by Copyright Claims Board.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish regulations providing for a written notification to be sent by, or on behalf of, the Copyright Claims Board to notify the respondent of a pending proceeding against the respondent, as set forth in those regulations, which shall—

“(1) include information concerning the respondent’s right to opt out of the proceeding, the consequences of opting out and not opting out, and a prominent statement that, by not opting out within 60 days after the date of service under subsection (g), the respondent loses the opportunity to have the dispute decided by a court created under article III of the Constitution of the United States and waives the right to a jury trial regarding the dispute; and
“(2) be in addition to, and separate and apart from, the notice requirements under subsection (g).

“(i) OPT-OUT PROCEDURE.—Upon being properly served with a notice and claim, a respondent who chooses to opt out of the proceeding shall have a period of 60 days, beginning on the date of service, in which to provide written notice of such choice to the Copyright Claims Board, in accordance with regulations established by the Register of Copyrights. If proof of service has been filed by the claimant and the respondent does not submit an opt-out notice to the Copyright Claims Board within that 60-day period, the proceeding shall be deemed an active proceeding and the respondent shall be bound by the determination in the proceeding to the extent provided under section 1507(a). If the respondent opts out of the proceeding during that 60-day period, the proceeding shall be dismissed without prejudice, except that, in exceptional circumstances and upon written notice to the claimant, the Copyright Claims Board may extend that 60-day period in the interests of justice.

“(j) SERVICE OF OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Documents submitted or relied upon in a proceeding, other than the notice and claim, shall be served in accordance with regulations established by the Register of Copyrights.
“(k) SCHEDULING.—Upon confirmation that a proceeding has become an active proceeding, the Copyright Claims Board shall issue a schedule for the future conduct of the proceeding. The schedule shall not specify a time that a claimant or counterclaimant is required make an election of damages that is inconsistent with section 1504(e). A schedule issued by the Copyright Claims Board may be amended by the Copyright Claims Board in the interests of justice.

“(l) CONFERENCES.—One or more Copyright Claims Officers may hold a conference to address case management or discovery issues in a proceeding, which shall be noted upon the record of the proceeding and may be recorded or transcribed.

“(m) PARTY SUBMISSIONS.—A proceeding of the Copyright Claims Board may not include any formal motion practice, except that, subject to applicable regulations and procedures of the Copyright Claims Board—

“(1) the parties to the proceeding may make requests to the Copyright Claims Board to address case management and discovery matters, and submit responses thereto; and

“(2) the Copyright Claims Board may request or permit parties to make submissions addressing relevant questions of fact or law, or other matters,
including matters raised sua sponte by the Copyright Claims Officers, and offer responses thereto.

“(n) DISCOVERY.—Discovery in a proceeding shall be limited to the production of relevant information and documents, written interrogatories, and written requests for admission, as provided in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights, except that—

“(1) upon the request of a party, and for good cause shown, the Copyright Claims Board may approve additional relevant discovery, on a limited basis, in particular matters, and may request specific information and documents from participants in the proceeding and voluntary submissions from non-participants, consistent with the interests of justice;

“(2) upon the request of a party, and for good cause shown, the Copyright Claims Board may issue a protective order to limit the disclosure of documents or testimony that contain confidential information; and

“(3) after providing notice and an opportunity to respond, and upon good cause shown, the Copyright Claims Board may apply an adverse inference with respect to disputed facts against a party who has failed to timely provide discovery materials in
response to a proper request for materials that could be relevant to such facts.

“(o) **EVIDENCE.—**The Copyright Claims Board may consider the following types of evidence in a proceeding, and such evidence may be admitted without application of formal rules of evidence:

“(1) Documentary and other nontestimonial evidence that is relevant to the claims, counterclaims, or defenses in the proceeding.

“(2) Testimonial evidence, submitted under penalty of perjury in written form or in accordance with subsection (p), limited to statements of the parties and nonexpert witnesses, that is relevant to the claims, counterclaims, and defenses in a proceeding, except that, in exceptional cases, expert witness testimony or other types of testimony may be permitted by the Copyright Claims Board for good cause shown.

“(p) **HEARINGS.—**The Copyright Claims Board may conduct a hearing to receive oral presentations on issues of fact or law from parties and witnesses to a proceeding, including oral testimony, subject to the following:

“(1) Any such hearing shall be attended by not fewer than 2 of the Copyright Claims Officers.
“(2) The hearing shall be noted upon the record of the proceeding and, subject to paragraph (3), may be recorded or transcribed as deemed necessary by the Copyright Claims Board.

“(3) A recording or transcript of the hearing shall be made available to any Copyright Claims Officer who is not in attendance.

“(q) VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL.—

“(1) BY CLAIMANT.—Upon the written request of a claimant that is received before a respondent files a response to the claim in a proceeding, the Copyright Claims Board shall dismiss the proceeding, or a claim or respondent, as requested, without prejudice.

“(2) BY COUNTERCLAIMANT.—Upon written request of a counterclaimant that is received before a claimant files a response to the counterclaim, the Copyright Claims Board shall dismiss the counterclaim, such dismissal to be without prejudice.

“(3) CLASS ACTIONS.—Any party in an active proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board who receives notice of a pending or putative class action, arising out of the same transaction or occurrence, in which that party is a class member may request in writing dismissal of the proceeding before the Board.
Upon notice to all claimants and counterclaimants, the Copyright Claims Board shall dismiss the proceeding without prejudice.

“(r) SETTLEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time in an active proceeding, some or all of the parties may—

“(A) jointly request a conference with a Copyright Claims Officer for the purpose of facilitating settlement discussions; or

“(B) submit to the Copyright Claims Board an agreement providing for settlement and dismissal of some or all of the claims and counterclaims in the proceeding.

“(2) ADDITIONAL REQUEST.—A submission under paragraph (1)(B) may include a request that the Copyright Claims Board adopt some or all of the terms of the parties’ settlement in a final determination in the proceeding.

“(s) FACTUAL FINDINGS.—Subject to subsection (n)(3), the Copyright Claims Board shall make factual findings based upon a preponderance of the evidence.

“(t) DETERMINATIONS.—

“(1) NATURE AND CONTENTS.—A determination rendered by the Copyright Claims Board in a proceeding shall—
“(A) be reached by a majority of the Copyright Claims Board;

“(B) be in writing, and include an explanation of the factual and legal basis of the determination;

“(C) set forth any terms by which a respondent or counterclaim respondent has agreed to cease infringing activity under section 1504(e)(2);

“(D) to the extent requested under subsection (r)(2), set forth the terms of any settlement agreed to under subsection (r)(1); and

“(E) include a clear statement of all damages and other relief awarded, including under subparagraphs (C) and (D).

“(2) DISSENT.—A Copyright Claims Officer who dissents from a decision contained in a determination under paragraph (1) may append a statement setting forth the grounds for that dissent.

“(3) PUBLICATION.—Each final determination of the Copyright Claims Board shall be made available on a publicly accessible website. The Register shall establish regulations with respect to the publication of other records and information relating to such determinations, including the redaction of
records to protect confidential information that is
the subject of a protective order under subsection
(n)(2).

“(4) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—All in-
formation relating to proceedings of the Copyright
Claims Board under this chapter is exempt from dis-
closure to the public under section 552(b)(3) of title
5, except for determinations, records, and informa-
tion published under paragraph (3).

“(u) RESPONDENT’S DEFAULT.—If a proceeding has
been deemed an active proceeding but the respondent has
failed to appear or has ceased participating in the pro-
cceeding, as demonstrated by the respondent’s failure,
without justifiable cause, to meet 1 or more deadlines or
requirements set forth in the schedule adopted by the
Copyright Claims Board under subsection (k), the Copy-
right Claims Board may enter a default determination, in-
cluding the dismissal of any counterclaim asserted by the
respondent, as follows and in accordance with such other
requirements as the Register of Copyrights may establish
by regulation:

“(1) The Copyright Claims Board shall require
the claimant to submit relevant evidence and other
information in support of the claimant’s claim and
any asserted damages and, upon review of such evi-
dence and any other requested submissions from the
claimant, shall determine whether the materials so
submitted are sufficient to support a finding in favor
of the claimant under applicable law and, if so, the
appropriate relief and damages, if any, to be award-
ed.

“(2) If the Copyright Claims Board makes an
affirmative determination under paragraph (1), the
Copyright Claims Board shall prepare a proposed
default determination, and shall provide written no-
tice to the respondent at all addresses, including
email addresses, reflected in the records of the pro-
ceeding before the Copyright Claims Board, of the
pendency of a default determination by the Copy-
right Claims Board and of the legal significance of
such determination. Such notice shall be accom-
panied by the proposed default determination and
shall provide that the respondent has a period of 30
days, beginning on the date of the notice, to submit
any evidence or other information in opposition to
the proposed default determination.

“(3) If the respondent responds to the notice
provided under paragraph (2) within the 30-day pe-
period provided in such paragraph, the Copyright
Claims Board shall consider the respondent’s sub-
missions and, after allowing the other parties to ad-

dress such submissions, maintain, or amend its pro-

posed determination as appropriate, and the result-

ing determination shall not be a default determina-

tion.

“(4) If the respondent fails to respond to the

notice provided under paragraph (2), the Copyright

Claims Board shall proceed to issue the default de-

termination as a final determination. Thereafter, the

respondent may only challenge such determination to

the extent permitted under section 1508(c), except

that, before any additional proceedings are initiated

under section 1508, the Copyright Claims Board

may, in the interests of justice, vacate the default
determination.

“(v) CLAIMANT’S FAILURE TO PROCEED.—

“(1) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE.—If a

claimant fails to complete service on a respondent

within the 90-day period required under subsection

(g), the Copyright Claims Board shall dismiss that

respondent from the proceeding without prejudice. If

a claimant fails to complete service on all respond-

dents within that 90-day period, the Copyright Claims

Board shall dismiss the proceeding without preju-

dice.
“(2) FAILURE TO PROSECUTE.—If a claimant fails to proceed in an active proceeding, as demonstrated by the claimant’s failure, without justifiable cause, to meet 1 or more deadlines or requirements set forth in the schedule adopted by the Copyright Claims Board under subsection (k), the Copyright Claims Board may, upon providing written notice to the claimant and a period of 30 days, beginning on the date of the notice, to respond to the notice, and after considering any such response, issue a determination dismissing the claimant’s claims, which shall include an award of attorneys’ fees and costs, if appropriate, under subsection (y)(2). Thereafter, the claimant may only challenge such determination to the extent permitted under section 1508(e), except that, before any additional proceedings are initiated under section 1508, the Copyright Claims Board may, in the interests of justice, vacate the determination of dismissal.

“(w) REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.—A party may, not later than 30 days after the date on which the Copyright Claims Board issues a final determination in a proceeding under this chapter, submit a written request for reconsideration of, or an amendment to, such determination if the party identifies a clear error of law or fact
material to the outcome, or a technical mistake. After providing the other parties an opportunity to address such request, the Copyright Claims Board shall either deny the request or issue an amended final determination.

“(x) Review by Register.—If the Copyright Claims Board denies a party a request for reconsideration of a final determination under subsection (w), that party may, not later than 30 days after the date of such denial, request review of the final determination by the Register of Copyrights in accordance with regulations established by the Register. Such request shall be accompanied by a reasonable filing fee, as provided in such regulations. The review by the Register shall be limited to consideration of whether the Copyright Claims Board abused its discretion in denying reconsideration of the determination. After providing the other parties an opportunity to address the request, the Register shall either deny the request for review, or remand the proceeding to the Copyright Claims Board for reconsideration of issues specified in the remand and for issuance of an amended final determination. Such amended final determination shall not be subject to further consideration or review, other than under section 1508(c).

“(y) Conduct of Parties and Attorneys.—
“(1) Certification.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish regulations requiring certification of the accuracy and truthfulness of statements made by participants in proceedings before the Copyright Claims Board.

“(2) Bad faith conduct.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any proceeding in which a determination is rendered and it is established that a party pursued a claim, counterclaim, or defense for a harassing or other improper purpose, or without a reasonable basis in law or fact, then, unless inconsistent with the interests of justice, the Copyright Claims Board shall in such determination award reasonable costs and attorneys’ fees to any adversely affected party of in an amount of not more than $5,000, except that—

“(A) if an adversely affected party appeared pro se in the proceeding, the award to that party shall be for costs only, in an amount of not more than $2,500; and

“(B) in extraordinary circumstances, such as where a party has demonstrated a pattern or practice of bad faith conduct as described in this paragraph, the Copyright Claims Board may, in the interests of justice, award costs and
attorneys’ fees in excess of the limitations under this paragraph.

“(3) ADDITIONAL PENALTY.—If the Board finds that on more than 1 occasion within a 12-month period a party pursued a claim, counterclaim, or defense before the Copyright Claims Board for a harassing or other improper purpose, or without a reasonable basis in law or fact, that party shall be barred from initiating a claim before the Copyright Claims Board under this chapter for a period of 12 months beginning on the date on which the Board makes such a finding. Any proceeding commenced by that party that is still pending before the Board when such a finding is made shall be dismissed without prejudice, except that if a proceeding has been deemed active under subsection (i), the proceeding shall be dismissed under this paragraph only if the respondent provides written consent thereto.

“(z) REGULATIONS FOR SMALLER CLAIMS.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish regulations to provide for the consideration and determination, by not fewer than 1 Copyright Claims Officer, of any claim under this chapter in which total damages sought do not exceed $5,000 (exclusive of attorneys’ fees and costs). A determination issued under this subsection shall have the same
effect as a determination issued by the entire Copyright Claims Board.

“(aa) OPT-OUT FOR LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish regulations allowing for a library or archives that does not wish to participate in proceedings before the Copyright Claims Board to preemptively opt out of such proceedings.

“(2) PROCEDURES.—The regulations established under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) set forth procedures for preemptively opting out of proceedings before the Copyright Claims Board; and

“(B) require that the Copyright Office compile and maintain a publicly available list of the libraries and archives that have successfully opted out of proceedings in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) NO FEE OR RENEWAL REQUIRED.—The Register of Copyrights may not—

“(A) charge a library or archives a fee to preemptively opt out of proceedings under this subsection; or
“(B) require a library or archives to renew a decision to preemptively opt out of proceedings under this subsection.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms ‘library’ and ‘archives’ mean any library or archives, respectively, that qualifies for the limitations on exclusive rights under section 108.

“§1507. Effect of proceeding

“(a) DETERMINATION.—Subject to the reconsideration and review processes provided under subsections (w) and (x) of section 1506 and section 1508(c), the issuance of a final determination by the Copyright Claims Board in a proceeding, including a default determination or determination based on a failure to prosecute, shall, solely with respect to the parties to such determination, preclude relitigation before any court or tribunal, or before the Copyright Claims Board, of the claims and counterclaims asserted and finally determined by the Board, and may be relied upon for such purpose in a future action or proceeding arising from the same specific activity or activities, subject to the following:

“(1) A determination of the Copyright Claims Board shall not preclude litigation or relitigation as between the same or different parties before any court or tribunal, or the Copyright Claims Board, of
the same or similar issues of fact or law in connection with claims or counterclaims not asserted or not finally determined by the Copyright Claims Board.

“(2) A determination of ownership of a copyrighted work for purposes of resolving a matter before the Copyright Claims Board may not be relied upon, and shall not have any preclusive effect, in any other action or proceeding before any court or tribunal, including the Copyright Claims Board.

“(3) Except to the extent permitted under this subsection and section 1508, any determination of the Copyright Claims Board may not be cited or relied upon as legal precedent in any other action or proceeding before any court or tribunal, including the Copyright Claims Board.

“(b) CLASS ACTIONS NOT AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board shall not have any effect on a class action proceeding in a district court of the United States, and section 1509(a) shall not apply to a class action proceeding in a district court of the United States.

“(2) NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION.—Any party to an active proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board who receives notice of a pending class action,
arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as the proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board, in which the party is a class member shall either—

“(A) opt out of the class action, in accordance with regulations established by the Register of Copyrights; or

“(B) seek dismissal under section 1506(q)(3) of the proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board.

“(c) Other Materials in Proceeding.—Except as permitted under this section and section 1508, a submission or statement of a party or witness made in connection with a proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board, including a proceeding that is dismissed, may not be cited or relied upon in, or serve as the basis of, any action or proceeding concerning rights or limitations on rights under this title before any court or tribunal, including the Copyright Claims Board.

“(d) Applicability of Section 512(g).—A claim or counterclaim before the Copyright Claims Board that is brought under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(4) of section 1504, or brought under subsection (c)(6) of section 1504 and that relates to a claim under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(4) of such section, qualifies as an action seeking an
order to restrain a subscriber from engaging in infringing
activity under section 512(g)(2)(C) if—

“(1) notice of the commencement of the Copy-
right Claims Board proceeding is provided by the
claimant to the service provider’s designated agent
before the service provider replaces the material fol-
lowing receipt of a counter notification under section
512(g); and

“(2) the claim brought alleges infringement of
the material identified in the notification of claimed
infringement under section 512(c)(1)(C).

“(e) FAILURE TO ASSERT COUNTERCLAIM.—The
failure or inability to assert a counterclaim in a proceeding
before the Copyright Claims Board shall not preclude the
assertion of that counterclaim in a subsequent court action
or proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board.

“(f) OPT-OUT OR DISMISSAL OF PARTY.—If a party
has timely opted out of a proceeding under section 1506(i)
or is dismissed from a proceeding before the Copyright
Claims Board issues a final determination in the pro-
ceeding, the determination shall not be binding upon and
shall have no preclusive effect with respect to that party.

“§ 1508. Review and confirmation by district court

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any proceeding in which a
party has failed to pay damages, or has failed otherwise
to comply with the relief, awarded in a final determination of the Copyright Claims Board, including a default determination or a determination based on a failure to prosecute, the aggrieved party may, not later than 1 year after the date on which the final determination is issued, any reconsideration by the Copyright Claims Board or review by the Register of Copyrights is resolved, or an amended final determination is issued, whichever occurs last, apply to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or any other appropriate district court of the United States for an order confirming the relief awarded in the final determination and reducing such award to judgment. The court shall grant such order and direct entry of judgment unless the determination is or has been vacated, modified, or corrected under subsection (c). If the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or other district court of the United States, as the case may be, issues an order confirming the relief awarded by the Copyright Claims Board, the court shall impose on the party who failed to pay damages or otherwise comply with the relief, the reasonable expenses required to secure such order, including attorneys’ fees, that were incurred by the aggrieved party.

“(b) FILING PROCEDURES.—
“(1) Application to Confirm Determination.—Notice of the application under subsection (a) for confirmation of a determination of the Copyright Claims Board and entry of judgment shall be provided to all parties to the proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board that resulted in the determination, in accordance with the procedures applicable to service of a motion in the district court of the United States where the application is made.

“(2) Contents of Application.—The application under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(A) A certified copy of the final or amended final determination of the Copyright Claims Board, as reflected in the records of the Copyright Claims Board, following any process of reconsideration or review by the Register of Copyrights, to be confirmed and rendered to judgment.

“(B) A declaration by the applicant, under penalty of perjury—

“(i) that the copy is a true and correct copy of such determination;

“(ii) stating the date the determination was issued;
“(iii) stating the basis for the challenge under subsection (c)(1); and

“(iv) stating whether the applicant is aware of any other proceedings before the court concerning the same determination of the Copyright Claims Board.

“(c) CHALLENGES TO THE DETERMINATION.—

“(1) BASES FOR CHALLENGE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Copyright Claims Board issues a final or amended final determination in a proceeding, or not later than 90 days after the date on which the Register of Copyrights completes any process of reconsideration or review of the determination, whichever occurs later, a party may seek an order from a district court of the United States vacating, modifying, or correcting the determination of the Copyright Claims Board in the following cases:

“(A) If the determination was issued as a result of fraud, corruption, misrepresentation, or other misconduct.

“(B) If the Copyright Claims Board exceeded its authority or failed to render a final determination concerning the subject matter at issue.
“(C) In the case of a default determination or determination based on a failure to prosecute, if it is established that the default or failure was due to excusable neglect.

“(2) Procedure to Challenge.—

“(A) Notice of Application.—Notice of the application to challenge a determination of the Copyright Claims Board shall be provided to all parties to the proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board, in accordance with the procedures applicable to service of a motion in the court where the application is made.

“(B) Staying of Proceedings.—For purposes of an application under this subsection, any judge who is authorized to issue an order to stay the proceedings in another action brought in the same court may issue an order, to be served with the notice of application, staying proceedings to enforce the award while the challenge is pending.

“§ 1509. Relationship to other district court actions

“(a) Stay of District Court Proceedings.—Subject to section 1507(b), a district court of the United States shall issue a stay of proceedings or such other relief as the court determines appropriate with respect to any
claim brought before the court that is already the subject of a pending or active proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board.

“(b) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS.—A proceeding before the Copyright Claims Board under this chapter shall qualify as an alternative dispute resolution process under section 651 of title 28 for purposes of referral of eligible cases by district courts of the United States upon the consent of the parties.

§ 1510. Implementation by Copyright Office

“(a) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IMPLEMENTATION GENERALLY.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish regulations to carry out this chapter. Such regulations shall include the fees prescribed under subsections (e) and (x) of section 1506. The authority to issue such fees shall not limit the authority of the Register of Copyrights to establish fees for services under section 708. All fees received by the Copyright Office in connection with the activities under this chapter shall be deposited by the Register of Copyrights and credited to the appropriations for necessary expenses of the Office in accordance with section 708(d). In establishing regulations under this subsection, the Register of Copyrights shall provide for the efficient ad-
ministration of the Copyright Claims Board, and for
the ability of the Copyright Claims Board to timely
complete proceedings instituted under this chapter,
including by implementing mechanisms to prevent
harassing or improper use of the Copyright Claims
Board by any party.

“(2) LIMITS ON MONETARY RELIEF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), not earlier than 3 years after the
date on which Copyright Claims Board issues
the first determination of the Copyright Claims
Board, the Register of Copyrights may, in order
to further the goals of the Copyright Claims
Board, conduct a rulemaking to adjust the lim-
its on monetary recovery or attorneys’ fees and
costs that may be awarded under this chapter.

“(B) EFFECTIVE DATE OF ADJUST-
MENT.—Any rule under subparagraph (A) that
makes an adjustment shall take effect at the
end of the 120-day period beginning on the
date on which the Register of Copyrights sub-
mits the rule to Congress and only if Congress
does not, during that 120-day period, enact a
law that provides in substance that Congress
does not approve the rule.
“(b) NECESSARY FACILITIES.—Subject to applicable law, the Register of Copyrights may retain outside vendors to establish internet-based, teleconferencing, and other facilities required to operate the Copyright Claims Board.

“(c) FEES.—Any filing fees, including the fee to commence a proceeding under section 1506(e), shall be prescribed in regulations established by the Register of Copyrights. The sum total of such filing fees shall be in an amount of not less than $100, may not exceed the cost of filing an action in a district court of the United States, and shall be fixed in amounts that further the goals of the Copyright Claims Board.

“§ 1511. Funding

“There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to pay the costs incurred by the Copyright Office under this chapter that are not covered by fees collected for services rendered under this chapter, including the costs of establishing and maintaining the Copyright Claims Board and its facilities.”.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for title 17, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15. Copyright Small Claims .................................................... 1501”.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 1 year after the date of en-
actment of this Act, the Copyright Claims Board est-
established under section 1502 of title 17, United
States Code, as added by subsection (b) of this sec-
tion, shall begin operations.

(2) EXTENSION.—The Register of Copyrights
may, for good cause, extend the deadline under
paragraph (1) by not more than 180 days if the
Register of Copyrights provides notice of the exten-
sion to the public and to Congress.

(e) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after the date
on which the Copyright Claims Board issues the first de-
termination of the Copyright Claims Board under chapter
15 of title 17, United States Code, as added by subsection
(b) of this section, the Register of Copyrights shall con-
duct, and report to Congress on, a study that addresses
the following:

(1) The use and efficacy of the Copyright
Claims Board in resolving copyright claims, includ-
ing the number of proceedings the Copyright Claims
Board could reasonably administer.

(2) Whether adjustments to the authority of the
Copyright Claims Board are necessary or advisable,
including with respect to—
(A) eligible claims, such as claims under section 1202 of title 17, United States Code; and

(B) works and applicable damages limitations.

(3) Whether greater allowance should be made to permit awards of attorneys’ fees and costs to prevailing parties, including potential limitations on such awards.

(4) Potential mechanisms to assist copyright owners with small claims in ascertaining the identity and location of unknown online infringers.

(5) Whether the Copyright Claims Board should be expanded to offer mediation or other non-binding alternative dispute resolution services to interested parties.

(6) Such other matters as the Register of Copyrights believes may be pertinent concerning the Copyright Claims Board.

(f) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, an amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section and the amendments made by this section,
and the application of the provision or the amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

Subtitle B—Trademarks

SEC. 221. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the “Trademark Modernization Act of 2020” or the “TM Act of 2020”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this subtitle is as follows:

Subtitle B—Trademarks

Sec. 221. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 222. Definitions.
Sec. 223. Providing for third-party submission of evidence during examination.
Sec. 224. Providing for flexible response periods.
Sec. 225. Ex parte expungement; ex parte reexamination; new grounds for cancellation.
Sec. 226. Rebuttable presumption of irreparable harm.
Sec. 227. Report on decluttering initiatives.
Sec. 228. Amendments to confirm authority of the Director.

SEC. 222. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.—The term “Trademark Act of 1946” means the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions,
and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946 (15
U.S.C. 1051 et. seq) (commonly referred to as the
“Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”).

SEC. 223. PROVIDING FOR THIRD-PARTY SUBMISSION OF
EVIDENCE DURING EXAMINATION.

(a) Amendment.—Section 1 of the Trademark Act
of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051) is amended by adding at the
end the following:

“(f) A third party may submit for consideration for
inclusion in the record of an application evidence relevant
to a ground for refusal of registration. The third-party
submission shall identify the ground for refusal and in-
clude a concise description of each piece of evidence sub-
mitted in support of each identified ground for refusal.
Not later than 2 months after the date on which the sub-
mission is filed, the Director shall determine whether the
evidence should be included in the record of the applica-
tion. The Director shall establish by regulation appro-
priate procedures for the consideration of evidence sub-
mitted by a third party under this subsection and may
prescribe a fee to accompany the submission. If the Direc-
tor determines that the third-party evidence should be in-
cluded in the record of the application, only the evidence
and the ground for refusal to which the evidence relates
may be so included. Any determination by the Director
whether or not to include evidence in the record of an application shall be final and non-reviewable, and a determination to include or to not include evidence in the record shall not prejudice any party’s right to raise any issue and rely on any evidence in any other proceeding.”.

(b) **Deadline for Procedures.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish the appropriate procedures described in section 1(f) of the Trademark Act of 1946, as added by subsection (a).

c) **Effective Date.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 224. PROVIDING FOR FLEXIBLE RESPONSE PERIODS.**

Section 12(b) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1062(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1) If the applicant is found not entitled to registration, the examiner shall notify the applicant thereof and of the reasons therefor. The applicant may reply or amend the application, which shall then be reexamined. This procedure may be repeated until the examiner finally refuses registration of the mark or the application is abandoned as described in paragraph (2).

“(2) After notification under paragraph (1), the applicant shall have a period of 6 months in which to reply
or amend the application, or such shorter time that is not less than 60 days, as prescribed by the Director by regulation. If the applicant fails to reply or amend or appeal within the relevant time period, including any extension under paragraph (3), the application shall be deemed to have been abandoned, unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in responding was unintentional, in which case the application may be revived and such time may be extended. The Director may prescribe a fee to accompany any request to revive.

“(3) The Director shall provide, by regulation, for extensions of time to respond to the examiner for any time period under paragraph (2) that is less than 6 months. The Director shall allow the applicant to obtain extensions of time to reply or amend aggregating 6 months from the date of notification under paragraph (1) when the applicant so requests. However, the Director may set by regulation the time for individual periods of extension, and prescribe a fee, by regulation, for any extension request. Any request for extension shall be filed on or before the date on which a reply or amendment is due under paragraph (1).”.
SEC. 225. EX PARTE EXPUNGEMENT; EX PARTE REEXAMINATION; NEW GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION.

(a) Ex Parte Expungement.—The Trademark Act of 1946 is amended by inserting after section 16 (15 U.S.C. 1066) the following:

"SEC. 16A. EX PARTE EXPUNGEMENT.

"(a) Petition.—Notwithstanding sections 7(b) and 22, and subsections (a) and (b) of section 33, any person may file a petition to expunge a registration of a mark on the basis that the mark has never been used in commerce on or in connection with some or all of the goods or services recited in the registration.

"(b) Contents of Petition.—A petition filed under subsection (a), together with any supporting documents, shall—

"(1) identify the registration that is the subject of the petition;

"(2) identify each good or service recited in the registration for which it is alleged that the mark has never been used in commerce;

"(3) include a verified statement that sets forth—

"(A) the elements of the reasonable investigation the petitioner conducted to determine that the mark has never been used in commerce..."
on or in connection with the goods and services identified in the petition; and

“(B) any additional facts that support the allegation that the mark has never been used in commerce on or in connection with the identified goods and services;

“(4) include any supporting evidence on which the petitioner relies; and

“(5) be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the Director.

“(c) INITIAL DETERMINATION; INSTITUTION.—

“(1) PRIMA FACIE CASE DETERMINATION, INSTITUTION, AND NOTIFICATION.—The Director shall, for each good or service identified under subsection (b)(2), determine whether the petition sets forth a prima facie case of the mark having never been used in commerce on or in connection with each such good or service, institute an ex parte expungement proceeding for each good or service for which the Director determines that a prima facie case has been set forth, and provide a notice to the registrant and petitioner of the determination of whether or not the proceeding was instituted. Such notice shall include a copy of the petition and any
supporting documents and evidence that were included with the petition.

“(2) **Reasonable investigation guidance.**—The Director shall promulgate regulations regarding what constitutes a reasonable investigation under subsection (b)(3) and the general types of evidence that could support a prima facie case that a mark has never been used in commerce, but the Director shall retain the discretion to determine whether a prima facie case is set out in a particular proceeding.

“(3) **Determination by director.**—Any determination by the Director whether or not to institute a proceeding under this section shall be final and non-reviewable, and shall not prejudice any party’s right to raise any issue and rely on any evidence in any other proceeding, except as provided in subsection (j).

“(d) **Ex parte expungement procedures.**—The procedures for ex parte expungement shall be the same as the procedures for examination under section 12(b), except that the Director shall promulgate regulations establishing and governing a proceeding under this section, which may include regulations that—
“(1) set response and extension times particular to this type of proceeding, which, notwithstanding section 12(b)(3), need not be extendable to 6 months;

“(2) set limits governing the timing and number of petitions filed for a particular registration or by a particular petitioner or real parties in interest; and

“(3) define the relation of a proceeding under this section to other proceedings concerning the mark.

“(e) Registrant’s Evidence of Use.—A registrant’s documentary evidence of use shall be consistent with when a mark shall be deemed to be in use in commerce under the definition of ‘use in commerce’ in section 45, but shall not be limited in form to that of specimens as provided in section 1(a).

“(f) Excusable Nonuse.—During an ex parte expungement proceeding, for a mark registered under section 44(e) or an extension of protection under section 66, the registrant may offer evidence showing that any nonuse is due to special circumstances that excuse such nonuse. In such a case, the examiner shall determine whether the facts and evidence demonstrate excusable nonuse and shall not find that the registration should be cancelled under
subsection (g) for any good or service for which excusable nonuse is demonstrated.

“(g) EXAMINER’S DECISION; ORDER TO CANCEL.—
For each good or service for which it is determined that a mark has never been used in commerce, and for which the provisions of subsection (f) do not apply, the examiner shall find that the registration should be cancelled for each such good or service. A mark shall not be found to have never been used in commerce if there is evidence of use in commerce by the registrant that temporally would have supported registration at the time the application was filed or the relevant allegation of use was made, or after registration, but before the petition to expunge was filed under subsection (a), or an ex parte expungement proceeding was instituted by the Director under subsection (h). Unless overturned on review of the examiner’s decision, the Director shall issue an order cancelling the registration, in whole or in part, after the time for appeal has expired or any appeal proceeding has terminated.

“(h) EX PARTE EXPUNGEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may, on the Director’s own initiative, institute an ex parte expungement proceeding if the Director discovers information that supports a prima facie case of a
mark having never been used in commerce on or in
connection with any good or service covered by a
registration. The Director shall promptly notify the
registrant of such determination, at which time the
ex parte expungement proceeding shall proceed ac-
according to the same procedures for ex parte
expungement established pursuant to subsection (d).
If the Director determines, based on the Director’s
own initiative, to institute an expungement pro-
ceeding, the Director shall transmit or make avail-
able the information that formed the basis for that
determination as part of the institution notice sent
to the registrant.

“(2) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in
this subsection shall be construed to limit any other
authority of the Director.

“(i) Time for Institution.—

“(1) When petition may be filed, ex
parte expungement proceeding instituted.—
A petition for ex parte expungement of a registra-
tion under subsection (a) may be filed, or the Direc-
tor may institute on the Director’s own initiative an
ex parte expungement proceeding of a registration
under subsection (h), at any time following the expi-
ration of 3 years after the date of registration and
before the expiration of 10 years following the date of registration.

“(2) Exception.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for a period of 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, a petition for expungement of a registration under subsection (a) may be filed, or the Director may institute on the Director’s own initiative an ex parte expungement proceeding of a registration under subsection (h), at any time following the expiration of 3 years after the date of registration.

“(j) Limitation on Later Ex Parte Expungement Proceedings.—

“(1) No co-pending proceedings.—With respect to a particular registration, while an ex parte expungement proceeding is pending, no later ex parte expungement proceeding may be instituted with respect to the same goods or services that are the subject of a pending ex parte expungement proceeding.

“(2) Estoppel.—With respect to a particular registration, for goods or services previously subject to an instituted expungement proceeding for which, in that proceeding, it was determined that the registrant had used the mark for particular goods or
services, as relevant, and the registration was not
cancelled as to those goods or services, no further ex-
parte expungement proceedings may be initiated as
to those goods or services, regardless of the identity
of the petitioner.

“(k) Use in Commerce Requirement Not Al-
terred.—Nothing in this section shall affect the require-
ment for use in commerce of a mark registered under sec-
tion 1(a) or 23.”.

(b) New Grounds for Cancellation.—Section 14
of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1064) is amend-
ed—

(1) by striking the colon at the end of para-
graph (5) and inserting a period;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
lowing:

“(6) At any time after the 3-year period fol-
lowing the date of registration, if the registered
mark has never been used in commerce on or in con-
nection with some or all of the goods or services re-
cited in the registration:”; and

(3) in the flush text following paragraph (6), as
added by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by insert-
ing “Nothing in paragraph (6) shall be construed to
limit the timing applicable to any other ground for
cancellation. A registration under section 44(e) or 66 shall not be cancelled pursuant to paragraph (6) if the registrant demonstrates that any nonuse is due to special circumstances that excuse such non-use.” after “identical certification mark is applied.”.

(c) **EX PARTE REEXAMINATION.**—The Trademark Act of 1946 is amended by inserting after section 16A, as added by subsection (a), the following:

“**SEC. 16B. EX PARTE REEXAMINATION.**

“(a) **Petition for Reexamination.**—Any person may file a petition to reexamine a registration of a mark on the basis that the mark was not in use in commerce on or in connection with some or all of the goods or services recited in the registration on or before the relevant date.

“(b) **Relevant Date.**—In this section, the term ‘relevant date’ means, with respect to an application for the registration of a mark with an initial filing basis of—

“(1) section 1(a) and not amended at any point to be filed pursuant to section 1(b), the date on which the application was initially filed; or

“(2) section 1(b) or amended at any point to be filed pursuant to section 1(b), the date on which—

“(A) an amendment to allege use under section 1(c) was filed; or
“(B) the period for filing a statement of use under section 1(d) expired, including all approved extensions thereof.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PETITION.—A petition filed under subsection (a), together with any supporting documents, shall—

“(1) identify the registration that is the subject of the petition;

“(2) identify each good and service recited in the registration for which it is alleged that the mark was not in use in commerce on or in connection with on or before the relevant date;

“(3) include a verified statement that sets forth—

“(A) the elements of the reasonable investigation the petitioner conducted to determine that the mark was not in use in commerce on or in connection with the goods and services identified in the petition on or before the relevant date; and

“(B) any additional facts that support the allegation that the mark was not in use in commerce on or before the relevant date on or in connection with the identified goods and services;
“(4) include supporting evidence on which the petitioner relies; and

“(5) be accompanied by the fee prescribed by the Director.

“(d) INITIAL DETERMINATION; INSTITUTION.—

“(1) PRIMA FACIE CASE DETERMINATION, INSTITUTION, AND NOTIFICATION.—The Director shall, for each good or service identified under subsection (c)(2), determine whether the petition sets forth a prima facie case of the mark having not been in use in commerce on or in connection with each such good or service, institute an ex parte reexamination proceeding for each good or service for which the Director determines that the prima facie case has been set forth, and provide a notice to the registrant and petitioner of the determination of whether or not the proceeding was instituted. Such notice shall include a copy of the petition and any supporting documents and evidence that were included with the petition.

“(2) REASONABLE INVESTIGATION GUIDANCE.—The Director shall promulgate regulations regarding what constitutes a reasonable investigation under subsection (c)(3) and the general types of evidence that could support a prima facie case that the
mark was not in use in commerce on or in connection with a good or service on or before the relevant date, but the Director shall retain discretion to determine whether a prima facie case is set out in a particular proceeding.

“(3) Determination by Director.—Any determination by the Director whether or not to institute a reexamination proceeding under this section shall be final and non-reviewable, and shall not prejudice any party’s right to raise any issue and rely on any evidence in any other proceeding, except as provided in subsection (j).

“(e) Reexamination Procedures.—The procedures for reexamination shall be the same as the procedures established under section 12(b) except that the Director shall promulgate regulations establishing and governing a proceeding under this section, which may include regulations that—

“(1) set response and extension times particular to this type of proceeding, which, notwithstanding section 12(b)(3), need not be extendable to 6 months;

“(2) set limits governing the timing and number of petitions filed for a particular registration or
by a particular petitioner or real parties in interest;

and

“(3) define the relation of a reexamination proceeding under this section to other proceedings concerning the mark.

“(f) Registrant’s Evidence of Use.—A registrant’s documentary evidence of use shall be consistent with when a mark shall be deemed to be in use in commerce under the definition of ‘use in commerce’ in section 45, but shall not be limited in form to that of specimens as provided in section 1(a).

“(g) Examiner’s Decision; Order to Cancel.—For each good or service for which it is determined that the registration should not have issued because the mark was not in use in commerce on or before the relevant date, the examiner shall find that the registration should be cancelled for each such good or service. Unless overturned on review of the examiner’s decision, the Director shall issue an order cancelling the registration, in whole or in part, after the time for appeal has expired or any appeal proceeding has terminated.

“(h) Reexamination by Director.—

“(1) In General.—The Director may, on the Director’s own initiative, institute an ex parte reexamination proceeding if the Director discovers infor-
mation that supports a prima facie case of the mark having not been used in commerce on or in connection with some or all of the goods or services covered by the registration on or before the relevant date.

The Director shall promptly notify the registrant of such determination, at which time reexamination shall proceed according to the same procedures established pursuant to subsection (c). If the Director determines, based on the Director’s own initiative, to institute an ex parte reexamination proceeding, the Director shall transmit or make available the information that formed the basis for that determination as part of the institution notice.

“(2) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit any other authority of the Director.

“(i) Time for Institution.—A petition for ex parte reexamination may be filed, or the Director may institute on the Director’s own initiative an ex parte reexamination proceeding, at any time not later than 5 years after the date of registration of a mark registered based on use in commerce.

“(j) Limitation on Later Ex Parte Reexamination Proceedings.—
“(1) No co-pending proceedings.—With respect to a particular registration, while an ex parte reexamination proceeding is pending, no later ex parte reexamination proceeding may be instituted with respect to the same goods or services that are the subject of a pending ex parte reexamination proceeding.

“(2) Estoppel.—With respect to a particular registration, for any goods or services previously subject to an instituted ex parte reexamination proceeding for which, in that proceeding, it was determined that the registrant had used the mark for particular goods or services before the relevant date, and the registration was not cancelled as to those goods or services, no further ex parte reexamination proceedings may be initiated as to those goods or services, regardless of the identity of the petitioner.

“(k) Supplemental register.—The provisions of subsection (b) apply, as appropriate, to registrations under section 23. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the timing of a cancellation action under section 24.”.

(d) Appeal.—

(1) Appeal to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.—Section 20 of the Trademark Act of 1946
(15 U.S.C. 1070) is amended by inserting “or a final decision by an examiner in an ex parte expungement proceeding or ex parte reexamination proceeding” after “registration of marks”.

(2) APPEAL TO COURTS.—

(A) EXPUNGEMENT OR EX PARTE REEXAMINATION.—Section 21(a)(1) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1071(a)(1)) is amended by striking “or an applicant for renewal” and inserting the following: “an applicant for renewal, or a registrant subject to an ex parte expungement proceeding or an ex parte reexamination proceeding”.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 21(b)(1) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1071(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “, except for a registrant subject to an ex parte expungement proceeding or an ex parte reexamination proceeding,” before “is dissatisfied”.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

The Trademark Act of 1946 is amended—

(1) in section 15 (15 U.S.C. 1065), by striking “paragraphs (3) and (5)” and inserting “paragraphs (3), (5), and (6)”; and
(2) in section 26 (15 U.S.C. 1094), by adding at the end the following: “Registrations on the supplemental register shall be subject to ex parte expungement and ex parte reexamination under sections 16A and 16B, respectively.”.

(f) DEADLINE FOR PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue regulations to carry out sections 16A and 16B of the Trademark Act of 1946, as added by subsections (a) and (c).

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply to any mark registered before, on, or after that effective date.

SEC. 226. REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF IRREPARABLE HARM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 34(a) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1116(a)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “A plaintiff seeking any such injunction shall be entitled to a rebuttable presumption of irreparable harm upon a finding of a violation identified in this subsection in the case of a motion for a permanent injunction or upon a finding of likelihood of success on the merits for a violation identified in this sub-
section in the case of a motion for a preliminary injunction
or temporary restraining order.”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment
made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to mean
that a plaintiff seeking an injunction was not entitled to
a presumption of irreparable harm before the date of en-
actment of this Act.

SEC. 227. REPORT ON DECLUTTERING INITIATIVES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
States shall consult with the Director to conduct a study
on the efforts of the Director during the period beginning
12 months after the date of enactment of this Act and
ending 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act
to address inaccurate and false claims of use in trademark
applications and registrations. Inaccurate and false claims
of use include any declaration of use by a trademark appli-
cant or registrant that cannot be supported by use in com-
merce as defined in section 45 of the Trademark Act of
1946 (15 U.S.C. 1127) or the regulations relevant to the
definition of specimens under section 1 of the Trademark
Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051), as applicable.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study
under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall assess
the following:
(1) With respect to sections 16A and 16B of the Trademark Act of 1946, as added by section 225—

(A) the number of petitions filed under each such section for which a decision not to institute was issued;

(B) the number of petitions filed under each such section for which a decision to institute was issued;

(C) the number of in-process and completed proceedings instituted under each such section, including any proceedings instituted by the Director’s own initiative;

(D) the average time taken to resolve proceedings instituted under each such section, including the average time between—

(i) the filing of a petition under each such section and an examiner’s final decision under section 16A(g) and 16B(g), or the last decision issued by the examiner if the registrant failed to respond to the latest-in-time decision by the examiner; and

(ii) the institution of a proceeding under each such section, including any proceedings instituted by the Director’s own
initiative, and an examiner’s final decision under section 16A(g) and 16B(g), or the last decision issued by the examiner if the registrant failed to respond to the latest-in-time decision by the examiner;

(E) the number of appeals of decisions of examiners to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and to the courts for each such proceeding; and

(F) an accounting of the final outcome of each such proceeding instituted by identifying the number of goods or services for which such proceedings were instituted, and the number of goods or services for each involved registration that were cancelled pursuant to such proceedings.

(2) With respect to section 1(f) of the Trademark Act of 1946, as added by section 223—

(A) the number of third-party submissions filed under such section for which the third-party asserts in the submission that the mark has not been used in commerce; and

(B) of the applications identified in sub-paragraph (A), the number of applications in
which the third-party submission evidence is included in the application; and

(C) of those applications identified in subparagraph (B), the number of applications—

(i) refused registration based on an assertion by the examiner that the mark has not been used in commerce; and

(ii) for which the examiner requested additional information from the applicant related to claims of use.

(3) The effectiveness of—

(A) the proceedings under sections 16A and 16B of the Trademark Act of 1946, as added by section 225, in addressing inaccurate and false claims of use in trademark registrations; and

(B) any additional programs conducted by the Director designed to address inaccurate and false claims of use in trademark applications and registrations, including the post-registration use audit, as implemented as of the date of enactment of this Act under sections 2.161(h) and 7.37(h) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations.
(c) Report to Congress.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) on the results of the study conducted under this section; and

(2) that includes any recommendations, based on the results of the study, for any changes to laws or regulations that will improve the integrity of the trademark register or reduce inaccurate or false claims of use.

SEC. 228. AMENDMENTS TO CONFIRM AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) Amendments.—

(1) Section 18 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1068) is amended by inserting after “established in the proceedings” the following: “. The authority of the Director under this section includes the authority to reconsider, and modify or set aside, a decision of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board”.

(2) Section 20 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1070) is amended by adding at the end
the following: “The Director may reconsider, and modify or set aside, a decision of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board under this section.”.

(3) Section 24 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1092) is amended by inserting after “shall be canceled by the Director” the following: “, unless the Director reconsiders the decision of the Board, and modifies or sets aside, such decision”.

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) AUTHORITY BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to mean that the Director lacked the authority to reconsider, and modify or set aside, a decision of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULAR DECISIONS.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to require the Director to reconsider, modify, or set aside any particular decision of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.