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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of  
Intellectual Property Rights**

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**MAIN DEDICATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
LAWS AND REGULATIONS NOTIFIED UNDER  
ARTICLE 63.2 OF THE AGREEMENT**

**BELIZE**

The present document reproduces the text<sup>1</sup> of the Copyright Bill, 2000, as notified by Belize under Article 63.2 of the Agreement (see document IP/N/1/BLZ/1).

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**Conseil des aspects des droits de propriété  
intellectuelle qui touchent au commerce**

**PRINCIPALES LOIS ET RÉGLEMENTATIONS CONSACRÉES À LA  
PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE NOTIFIÉES AU TITRE  
DE L'ARTICLE 63:2 DE L'ACCORD**

**BELIZE**

Le présent document contient le texte<sup>1</sup> du projet de loi sur le droit d'auteur, de 2000, notifié par le Belize au titre de l'article 63:2 de l'Accord (voir le document IP/N/1/BLZ/1).

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**Consejo de los Aspectos de los Derechos de Propiedad  
Intellectual relacionados con el Comercio**

**PRINCIPALES LEYES Y REGLAMENTOS DEDICADOS A LA  
PROPIEDAD INTELLECTUAL NOTIFICADOS EN VIRTUD  
DEL PÁRRAFO 2 DEL ARTÍCULO 63 DEL ACUERDO**

**BELICE**

En el presente documento se reproduce el texto<sup>1</sup> de la Ley de Derecho de Autor, 2000, que Belice ha notificado en virtud del párrafo 2 del artículo 63 del Acuerdo (véase el documento IP/N/1/BLZ/1).

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<sup>1</sup> In English only./En anglais seulement./En inglés solamente.

**BELIZE:**

**COPYRIGHT BILL, 2000**

**ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES**

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title.
2. Commencement.
3. Interpretation.
4. Act binding on State.
5. Publication.
6. Lawful reception on encrypted broadcasts.

**PART II**

**COPYRIGHT**

**Protected Works**

7. Categories of protected works.
8. Qualification for copyright protection.
9. Nature of copyright. - economic rights

**Duration of Copyright Protection**

10. Duration of copyright in literary, etc. works.
11. Duration of copyright in sound recordings and films.
12. Duration of copyright in broadcasts and cable programmes.
13. Duration of copyright in typographical arrangements of editions.

**PART III**

**MORAL RIGHTS AND RELATED RIGHTS**

**Identification with Work**

14. Moral Rights.
15. Right to be identified as author, etc.

**Objection to Treatment of Work**

16. Right to object to derogatory treatment of work.

**Related Rights**

17. False attribution of work.  
18. Right to privacy - commissioned photographs and films.

**Supplementary**

19. Duration of moral rights and related rights.  
20. Consent and waiver of rights.  
21. Application of provisions to joint works.  
22. Application of provisions to part of work.  
23. Meaning of commercial publication.  
24. Regulations.

**PART IV**

**OWNERSHIP AND ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS**

**Ownership of Copyright**

25. Ownership of copyright.

**Assignment of Copyright**

26. Assignments and licences.  
27. Meaning of copyright owner.  
28. Prospective owner of copyright.  
29. Copyright in unpublished works passes under will.  
30. Moral rights, etc. not assignable.  
31. Transmission of moral rights, etc. on death.

**PART V**

**INFRINGEMENTS OF RIGHTS**

**Economic rights**

32. Action - definition of.  
33. Infringement.

34. Proprietor of place of public entertainment liable for infringement.
35. Infringement by providing apparatus in public, etc. for giving infringing performances.

#### Remedies for Infringement of Economic Rights

36. Action by owner of copyright for infringement.
37. Order for delivery up in civil proceedings.
38. Right to seize infringing copies, etc.
39. Wide injunction available to licensing bodies.
40. Proceedings in case of copyright subject to exclusive licence.

#### Moral and Related Rights

41. Infringement of right to be identified as author or director.
42. Infringement of right to object to derogatory treatment of work.
43. Infringement of possession of infringing article.
44. False attribution of work; infringement.
45. Infringement of privacy right respecting photographs, etc.

#### Remedies for Infringement of Moral Rights and Related Rights

46. Remedies for infringing moral rights, etc.

#### Presumptions

47. Presumptions as to subsistence and ownership of copyright
48. Presumption in relation to authorship of protected works; ownership; originality; publication.
49. Presumptions where action relates to sound recordings, films, and computer programmes.
50. Withdrawal of privilege against incrimination of self or spouse in infringement and related proceedings.
51. Provision for restricting importation of infringing copies.

#### Offences

52. Penalties in respect of dealings which infringe copyright.
53. Presumptions not to apply.
54. Order to deliver up in criminal proceedings.

## PART VI

### EXCEPTIONS TO INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT

#### Preliminary

55. Definitions.

#### General Exceptions

56. Research and private study.  
57. Criticism, review and reporting.  
58. Determining fair dealing.  
59. Incidental inclusion of protected work.

#### Use of Work for Educational Purposes

60. Acts done for purposes of instruction or examination.  
61. Anthologies for educational use.  
62. Performing, playing or showing works in course of activities of educational establishment.  
63. Recording of broadcasts, etc. at educational establishments.  
64. Restriction on reprographic copyright from published works.  
65. Subsequent dealings with authorised copies.

#### Exceptions affecting Libraries and Archives

66. Interpretation of references; regulations.  
67. Supply by librarian of copies of published work.  
68. Supply of copies to other libraries.  
69. Replacing copies of works.  
70. Copying of unpublished work.

#### Exceptions Relating to Public Administration

71. Parliamentary and judicial proceedings and statutory inquiries.  
72. Public records.

#### Designs

73. Design documents and models.  
74. Where design derived from artistic work is exploited.

**Exception Relating to Works in Electronic Form**

75. Transfer of works in electronic form.

**Miscellaneous Exceptions relating to Literary, Dramatic, Musical and Artistic Works**

76. Statutory licences; recordings for broadcasting.  
77. Reading or recitation in public.  
78. Representation of artistic works on public display.  
79. Reconstruction of buildings.  
80. Subsequent work by same artist.

**Miscellaneous Exceptions Respecting Broadcasts**

81. Recording broadcasts for programme supervision.  
82. Recording for purposes of time shifting.  
83. Provision of subtitled copies of broadcast or cable programme.

**Adaptations**

84. Adaptations.

**Prescribed Exceptions**

85. Power of Minister to prescribe exceptions to infringement.

**PART VII**

**COPYRIGHT LICENSING**

**Licensing schemes and licensing bodies**

86. Jurisdiction of Supreme Court.  
87. Procedure in proceedings before Supreme Court.  
88. Licensing schemes and licensing bodies.

**References and applications with respect to licensing schemes**

89. Licensing schemes to which ss. 90 to 95 apply.  
90. Reference of proposed licensing scheme to Supreme Court.

91. Reference of existing licensing scheme to Supreme Court.
92. Further reference to Supreme Court.
93. Application for grant of licence in connection with licensing scheme.
94. Application for review of order as to entitlement to licence.
95. Effect of order of Court as to licensing scheme.

**References and applications with respect to individual licensing by  
licensing bodies**

96. Licences to which ss. 97 to 100 apply.
97. Reference to Supreme Court of proposed licence.
98. Reference to Supreme Court of expiring licence.
99. Application for review of order as to licence.
100. Effect of order of Supreme Court as to licence.

**Factors to be taken into account in certain classes of case**

101. General considerations: unreasonable discrimination.
102. Licences for reprographic copying.
103. Licences for educational establishments in respect of works included in broadcasts or cable programmes.
104. Licences to reflect conditions imposed by promoters of events.
105. Licences to payments in respect of underlying rights.
106. Mention of the specific matters not to exclude other relevant considerations.

**PART VIII**

**RIGHTS IN PERFORMANCES**

107. Conferment of rights in performances.

**Performers' Rights**

108. Consent required for recording or live transmission of performance.
109. Infringement of performer's rights by use of recording made without consent.
110. Consent and royalty required for adaptation of recording.
111. Infringement of performer's rights by importing, possessing, etc. illicit recording.

### Rights of Person having Recording Rights

112. Consent required for recording of performance subject to exclusive contract.
113. Infringement of recording rights by use of recording made without consents.
114. Infringement of recording rights by importing, possessing illicit recording.

### Duration and Transmission of Rights in Performances: Consent

115. Duration of rights in performances.
116. Transmission of rights in performances.
117. Consent.

### Remedies for Infringement of Rights in Performances

118. Infringement actionable as breach of statutory duty.
119. Order for delivery up of illicit recording in court proceedings.
120. Rights to seize illicit recordings.

### Offences in Relation to Performances

121. Criminal liability for making, dealing with or using illicit recordings.
122. Order for delivery up of illicit recording in criminal proceedings.
123. False representation of authority to give consent.

### Exceptions to Infringement of Rights Conferred under this Part

124. Fair dealing for criticism, etc.
125. Incidental inclusion of performance or recordings.
126. Acts done to recording of performance for purposes of instruction, etc.
127. Recording of broadcasting and cable programmes by educational establishments.
128. Acts done to performance or recording for Parliamentary proceedings, etc.
129. Transfer of recording of performance in electronic form.
130. Use of recordings of spoken words.
131. Incidental recording for purposes of broadcast or cable programme.



- 132. Recordings for supervision and control of programmes permitted.
- 133. Order excepting acts from infringing rights under this Part.
- 134. Court may consent on behalf of performer.

## PART IX

### GENERAL

#### Supplementary provisions

- 135. Order for disposal of infringing copy or illicit recording.
- 136. Period after which remedy of delivery up not available.
- 137. Time limited for prosecution.
- 138. Powers of police officers.
- 139. Restrictions on the entry and search of domestic premises.
- 140. Obstruction of police officers.
- 141. Offences by bodies corporate.
- 142. Power to make Regulations.

## PART X

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 143. Power to apply provisions of Act to other countries.
- 144. International organisations.
- 145. Denial of copyright or rights in performances.

## PART XI

### REPEALS, SAVINGS, TRANSITION

- 146. Repeals.
- 147. Savings.
- 148. Copyright subsists only under Act.
- 149. Enforcement of copyright subject to public interest.
- 150. Transitional.

**BELIZE:**

**BILL**

for

**AN ACT to make a comprehensive copyright law for Belize; to afford better protection for literary, dramatic, musical, artistic and other works and creative products; to make provision as to the rights of performers and others in performances; to repeal the Copyright Act, Chapter 198 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 1980-90; to repeal the Copyright Act, 1956 of the United Kingdom in so far as it has effect as part of the law of Belize; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.**

*(Gazetted 18th March, 2000.)*

*BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and the Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:-*

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

**COPYRIGHT ACT, 2000**

**Commencement.** 2. This Act shall come into force on a day to be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*; and different days may be appointed for different provisions and different purposes.

**Interpretation.** 3. (1) For the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

"adaptation" means -

- (a) in relation to a computer programme, a version of the programme in which it is converted into or out of a computer language or code, or into a different language or code otherwise than incidentally in the course of running the programme;
- (b) in relation to a literary work in a non-dramatic form, a version of the work (whether in its original language or in a different language) in a dramatic form;
- (c) in relation to a literary work in a dramatic form, a version of the work (whether in its original language or in a different language) in a non-dramatic form;
- (d) in relation to a literary work (whether in a non-dramatic form or in a dramatic form)-
  - (i) a translation of the work; or
  - (ii) a version of the work in which the story or action is conveyed solely or principally by means of pictures in a form suitable for reproduction in a book or in a newspaper, magazine or similar periodical; and

- (e) in relation to a musical work, an arrangement or transcription of the work;

"article" in the context of an article in a periodical, includes an item of any description;

"artistic work" means -

- (a) a graphic work, photograph, sculpture or collage, irrespective of artistic quality;
- (b) a work of architecture being a building or a model of a building, irrespective of artistic quality; or
- (c) a work of artistic craftsmanship to which neither paragraph (a) nor paragraph (b) applies;

"author" means the person who creates a work, being -

- (a) in relation to a literary or dramatic work, the author of the work;
- (b) in relation to a musical work, the composer;
- (c) in relation to an artistic work other than a photograph, the artist;
- (d) in relation to a photograph, the person taking the photograph;

and, where the context requires, shall be taken to be in relation to -

- (e) a sound recording or film, the person by whom the arrangements necessary for the making of the recording or film are undertaken;