

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2511

To amend title 17, United States Code, to extend protection to fashion design, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 17, United States Code, to extend protection to fashion design, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Innovative Design Pro-
5 tection and Piracy Prevention Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 17, UNITED STATES CODE.**

7 (a) **DESIGNS PROTECTED.**—Section 1301 of title 17,
8 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(4) FASHION DESIGN.—A fashion design is
4 subject to protection under this chapter.”;

5 (2) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or an
7 article of apparel,” after “plug or mold”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(7) A ‘fashion design’—

10 “(A) is the appearance as a whole of an
11 article of apparel, including its ornamentation;
12 and

13 “(B) includes original elements of the arti-
14 cle of apparel or the original arrangement or
15 placement of original or non-original elements
16 as incorporated in the overall appearance of the
17 article of apparel that—

18 “(i) are the result of a designer’s own
19 creative endeavor; and

20 “(ii) provide a unique, distinguishable,
21 non-trivial and non-utilitarian variation
22 over prior designs for similar types of arti-
23 cles.

1 “(8) The term ‘design’ includes fashion design,
2 except to the extent expressly limited to the design
3 of a vessel.

4 “(9) The term ‘apparel’ means—

5 “(A) an article of men’s, women’s, or chil-
6 dren’s clothing, including undergarments, outer-
7 wear, gloves, footwear, and headgear;

8 “(B) handbags, purses, wallets, tote bags,
9 and belts; and

10 “(C) eyeglass frames.

11 “(10) In the case of a fashion design, the term
12 ‘substantially identical’ means an article of apparel
13 which is so similar in appearance as to be likely to
14 be mistaken for the protected design, and contains
15 only those differences in construction or design
16 which are merely trivial.”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In the case of a
19 fashion design under this chapter, those differences or
20 variations which are considered non-trivial for the pur-
21 poses of establishing that a design is subject to protection
22 under subsection (b)(7) shall be considered non-trivial for
23 the purposes of establishing that a defendant’s design is
24 not substantially identical under subsection (b)(10) and
25 section 1309(e).”.

1 (b) DESIGNS NOT SUBJECT TO PROTECTION.—Sec-
2 tion 1302(5) of title 17, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) by striking “(5)” and inserting “(5)(A) in
5 the case of a design of a vessel hull,”;

6 (2) by striking the period and inserting “; or”;
7 and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(B) in the case of a fashion design, embodied
10 in a useful article that was made public by the de-
11 signer or owner in the United States or a foreign
12 country before the date of enactment of this chapter
13 or more than 3 years before the date upon which
14 protection of the design is asserted under this chap-
15 ter.”.

16 (c) REVISIONS, ADAPTATIONS, AND REARRANGE-
17 MENTS.—Section 1303 of title 17, United States Code, is
18 amended by adding at the end the following: “The pres-
19 ence or absence of a particular color or colors or of a pic-
20 torial or graphic work imprinted on fabric shall not be con-
21 sidered in determining the protection of a fashion design
22 under section 1301 or 1302 or in determining infringe-
23 ment under section 1309.”.

24 (d) TERM OF PROTECTION.—Section 1305(a) of title
25 17, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
2 protection provided under this chapter—

3 “(1) for a design of a vessel hull, shall continue
4 for a term of 10 years beginning on the date of the
5 commencement of protection under section 1304;
6 and

7 “(2) for a fashion design, shall continue for a
8 term of 3 years beginning on the date of the com-
9 mencement of protection under section 1304.”.

10 (e) INFRINGEMENT.—Section 1309 of title 17,
11 United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) by inserting “offer for sale, advertise,”
14 after “sell,”; and

15 (B) by inserting “either actual or reason-
16 ably inferred from the totality of the cir-
17 cumstances,” after “created without knowl-
18 edge”;

19 (2) by amending subsection (e) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(e) INFRINGING ARTICLE DEFINED.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As used in this section, an
23 ‘infringing article’ is any article the design of which
24 has been copied from a design protected under this
25 chapter, or from an image thereof, without the con-

1 sent of the owner of the protected design. An in-
2 fringing article is not an illustration or picture of a
3 protected design in an advertisement, book, peri-
4 odical, newspaper, photograph, broadcast, motion
5 picture, or similar medium.

6 “(2) VESSEL HULL DESIGN.—In the case of a
7 design of a vessel hull, a design shall not be deemed
8 to have been copied from a protected design if it is
9 original and not substantially similar in appearance
10 to a protected design.

11 “(3) FASHION DESIGN.—In the case of a fash-
12 ion design, a design shall not be deemed to have
13 been copied from a protected design if that design—

14 “(A) is not substantially identical in overall
15 visual appearance to and as to the original ele-
16 ments of a protected design; or

17 “(B) is the result of independent cre-
18 ation.”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(h) HOME SEWING EXCEPTION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It is not an infringement of
22 the exclusive rights of a design owner for a person
23 to produce a single copy of a protected design for
24 personal use or for the use of an immediate family

1 member, if that copy is not offered for sale or use
2 in trade during the period of protection.

3 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this subsection shall be construed to permit the pub-
5 lication or distribution of instructions or patterns for
6 the copying of a protected design.”.

7 (f) APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.—Section
8 1310(a) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by striking “Protection under this chapter”
10 and inserting “In the case of a design of a vessel
11 hull, protection under this chapter”; and

12 (2) by adding “Registration shall not apply to
13 fashion designs.” after “first made public.”.

14 (g) REMEDY FOR INFRINGEMENT.—Section 1321 of
15 title 17, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(1) VESSEL HULL.—In the case of a vessel
20 hull, the owner of a design is entitled, after issuance
21 of a certificate of registration of the design under
22 this chapter, to institute an action for any infringe-
23 ment of the design.

24 “(2) FASHION DESIGN.—In the case of a fash-
25 ion design, the owner of a design is entitled to insti-

1 tute an action for any infringement of the design
2 after the design is made public under the terms of
3 section 1310(b) of this chapter.”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) PLEADING REQUIREMENT FOR FASHION DE-
6 SIGNS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a fashion de-
8 sign, a claimant in an action for infringement shall
9 plead with particularity facts establishing that—

10 “(A) the design of the claimant is a fash-
11 ion design within the meaning of section
12 1301(a)(7) of this title and thus entitled to pro-
13 tection under this chapter;

14 “(B) the design of the defendant infringes
15 upon the protected design as described under
16 section 1309(e); and

17 “(C) the protected design or an image
18 thereof was available in such location or loca-
19 tions, in such a manner, and for such duration
20 that it can be reasonably inferred from the to-
21 tality of the surrounding facts and cir-
22 cumstances that the defendant saw or otherwise
23 had knowledge of the protected design.

24 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering wheth-
25 er a claim for infringement has been adequately

1 pleaded, the court shall consider the totality of the
2 circumstances.”.

3 (h) PENALTY FOR FALSE REPRESENTATION.—Sec-
4 tion 1327 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by inserting “or for purposes of obtaining
6 recovery based on a claim of infringement under this
7 chapter” after “registration of a design under this
8 chapter”;

9 (2) by striking “\$500” and inserting “\$5,000”;

10 and

11 (3) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting
12 “\$10,000”.

13 (i) NONAPPLICABILITY OF ENFORCEMENT BY
14 TREASURY AND POSTAL SERVICE.—Section 1328 of title
15 17, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by
17 striking “The Secretary” and inserting “In the case
18 of designs of vessel hulls protected under this chap-
19 ter, the Secretary”;

20 (2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by
21 striking “Articles” and inserting “In the case of de-
22 signs of vessel hulls protected under this chapter, ar-
23 ticles”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) NONAPPLICABILITY.—This section shall not
2 apply to fashion designs protected under this chapter.”.

3 (j) COMMON LAW AND OTHER RIGHTS UNAF-
4 FECTED.—Section 1330 of title 17, United States Code,
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” after the
7 semicolon;

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and
9 inserting “; or”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(3) any rights that may exist under provisions
12 of this title other than this chapter.”.

13 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
15 take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

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