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Strengthening Anti-Piracy Laws: India's Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023

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The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (the Bill), intended to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 was passed by the upper house of the Indian parliament on July 27, 2023.

The following are some of the provisions of the [Cinematograph \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#) (the Amendment Act) that are relevant to copyrights:

- It prohibits the use of audio-visual recording devices for making or transmitting infringing copies of a film or any part of it in a place licensed to exhibit cinematograph films; and
- It prohibits the use or abetment of use of an infringing copy of any film for public exhibition for profit at an unlicensed place of exhibition of such film or in a manner that infringes the copyright in such a film; and
- Contravention of the above newly added provisions would entail imprisonment between three months and three years and a fine which will not be less than INR 3,00,000 (~USD 3,600) but may extend to 5% of a film's audited gross production cost.

The amended provisions relating to the prohibition of unauthorized recording and exhibition of films acts a counterfoil to the currently existing remedies available to copyright owners under the Copyright Act, 1957.

