

As you hear coverage of protests against pending legislation regarding copyright and Internet censorship, please be aware that provisions of these proposed laws would put sites hosting vaulting videos at risk of being shut down, without warning and without due process because they could contain copyrighted content such as music.

Vaulting has generally used music under the doctrine of Fair Use, primarily in an educational context. However the bills moving through congress, reportedly under intense lobbying by major Hollywood Studios, imposes a draconian take down first ask questions later liability on Internet service providers and web hosting companies. And there are no effective provisions for protecting the legitimate Fair Use of copyrighted materials. If passed, it is likely that if a vaulting club's website is found, automatically by industry developed software, to contain copyrighted music, say as part of a video featuring a child's freestyle routine, that not just the video, but the whole site would be taken down and severe restrictions placed on any accounts managing the site. It is also unlikely that typical vaulting volunteers would have the time or resources to oppose such actions.

So act now. Contact your representatives and senators. Tell the story of vaulting and how these laws would have many unintended consequences.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

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