

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1695

To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide additional responsibilities for the Register of Copyrights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BASS, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOWDY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MARINO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide additional responsibilities for the Register of Copyrights, 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 “Register of Copyrights
5 Selection and Accountability Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 701 of title 17, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking “(a) All administrative”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(a) REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”;

9 (B) by striking “director” and inserting
10 “Director”;

11 (C) by inserting after the first sentence the
12 following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be
13 a citizen of the United States with a profes-
14 sional background and experience in copyright
15 law and shall be appointed by the President, by
16 and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
17 ate.”; and

18 (D) in the last sentence, by striking “shall
19 be appointed” and all that follows through “and
20 shall act” and inserting “shall act”;

21 (2) in subsection (b), by redesignating para-
22 graphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A)
23 through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins
24 accordingly;

25 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as para-
26 graph (2), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

1 (4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by in-
2 serting “DUTIES.—” before “In addition”;

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

5 “(3) OATH.—The Register of Copyrights shall,
6 before taking office, take an oath to discharge faith-
7 fully the duties of the Copyright Office described in
8 paragraph (2).

9 “(4) REMOVAL.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Register of Copy-
11 rights may be removed from office by the Presi-
12 dent.

13 “(B) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall
14 provide notification to both Houses of Congress
15 of a removal under subparagraph (A).

16 “(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
18 graph (B), the Register of Copyrights—

19 “(i) shall be appointed for a term of
20 10 years; and

21 “(ii) may serve until a successor is ap-
22 pointed, confirmed, and taken the oath of
23 office.

24 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Register of Copy-
25 rights may not continue to serve after the date

1 on which Congress adjourns sine die after the
2 date on which the 10-year period described in
3 subparagraph (A)(i) ends.

4 “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual ap-
5 pointed to the position of Register of Copy-
6 rights, by and with the advice and consent of
7 the Senate, may be reappointed to that position
8 in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
9 tion.”;

10 (6) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
11 as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

12 (7) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by in-
13 serting “SEAL.—” before “The Register”;

14 (8) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by in-
15 serting “ANNUAL REPORT.—” before “The Reg-
16 ister”;

17 (9) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by in-
18 serting “APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 5.—” before
19 “Except as provided”; and

20 (10) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
21 inserting “COMPENSATION.—” before “The Reg-
22 ister”.

23 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
24 section (a) shall apply with respect to any vacancy for the
25 Register of Copyrights after January 1, 2017. If a Reg-

1 ister of Copyrights is appointed during the period begin-
2 ning on January 1, 2017, and ending on the day before
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, that Register shall
4 meet the requirements of the amendments made by this
5 Act or shall be replaced in accordance with such amend-
6 ments.

○