

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1695

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Register of Copyrights
3 Selection and Accountability Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “(a) All administrative”
9 and inserting the following:

10 “(a) REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.—

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

12 (B) by striking “director” and inserting
13 “Director”;

14 (C) by inserting after the first sentence the
15 following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be
16 a citizen of the United States with a profes-
17 sional background and experience in copyright
18 law, shall be capable of identifying and super-
19 vising a Chief Information Officer or other
20 similar official responsible for managing mod-
21 ern information technology systems, and shall
22 be appointed by the President from the individ-
23 uals recommended under paragraph (6), by and
24 with the advice and consent of the Senate.”;
25 and

1 (D) in the last sentence, by striking “shall
2 be appointed” and all that follows through “and
3 shall act” and inserting “shall act”;

4 (2) in subsection (b), by redesignating para-
5 graphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A)
6 through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins
7 accordingly;

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

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

12 (5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
13 lowing:

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

18 “(4) REMOVAL.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Register of Copy-
20 rights may be removed from office by the Presi-
21 dent.

22 “(B) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall
23 provide notification to both Houses of Congress
24 of a removal under subparagraph (A).

25 “(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

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

3 “(i) shall be appointed for a term of
4 10 years; and

5 “(ii) may serve until a successor is ap-
6 pointed, confirmed, and taken the oath of
7 office.

8 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Register of Copy-
9 rights may not continue to serve after the date
10 on which Congress adjourns sine die after the
11 date on which the 10-year period described in
12 subparagraph (A)(i) ends.

13 “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual ap-
14 pointed to the position of Register of Copy-
15 rights, by and with the advice and consent of
16 the Senate, may be reappointed to that position
17 in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
18 tion.

19 “(6) PANEL FOR REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
20 RECOMMENDATIONS.—There is established a panel
21 to recommend a list of at least 3 individuals to the
22 President for appointment as the Register of Copy-
23 rights. The panel shall be composed of the following:

24 “(A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives.

1 “(B) The President pro tempore of the
2 Senate.

3 “(C) The majority and minority leaders of
4 the House of Representatives and the Senate.

5 “(D) The Librarian of Congress.”;

6 (6) by redesignating subsections (e) through (f)
7 as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

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

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

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

16 (10) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
17 inserting “COMPENSATION.—” before “The Reg-
18 ister”.

19 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
20 section (a) shall apply with respect to any vacancy for the
21 Register of Copyrights after January 1, 2017. If a Reg-
22 ister of Copyrights is appointed during the period begin-
23 ning on January 1, 2017 and ending on the day before
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, that Register shall
25 meet the requirements of the amendments made by this

1 Act or shall be replaced in accordance with such amend-
2 ments.

3 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.**

4 Nothing in this Act may be construed to impact the
5 mandatory deposit requirements in title 17, United States
6 Code.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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