

Union Calendar No. 51

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1695

[Report No. 115–91]

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

APRIL 20, 2017

Additional sponsors: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. COHEN

Deleted sponsor: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (added March 23, 2017; deleted March 27, 2017)

APRIL 20, 2017

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 23, 2017]

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 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Register of Copyrights*
 5 *Selection and Accountability Act of 2017”.*

6 **SECTION 2. REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.**

7 (a) *AMENDMENTS.*—Section 701 of title 17, United
 8 *States Code, is amended—*

9 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

10 *(A) by striking “(a) All administrative”*
 11 *and inserting the following:*

12 “(a) *REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.*—

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

14 *(B) by striking “director” and inserting*
 15 *“Director”;*

16 *(C) by inserting after the first sentence the*
 17 *following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be a*
 18 *citizen of the United States with a professional*
 19 *background and experience in copyright law and*
 20 *shall be appointed by the President from the in-*
 21 *dividuals recommended under paragraph (6), by*
 22 *and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”;*
 23 *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) through
6 (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
7 ingly;

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

10 (4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by in-
11 serting “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 10
4 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 Copyrights,
15 by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
16 ate, may be reappointed to that position in ac-
17 cordance with the requirements of this section.

18 “(6) *PANEL FOR REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS REC-*
19 *OMMENDATIONS.*—There is established a panel to rec-
20 ommend a list of at least 3 individuals to the Presi-
21 dent for appointment as the Register of Copyrights.
22 The panel shall be composed of the following:

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

1 “(B) *The President pro tempore of the Sen-*
2 *ate.*

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 (c) 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 Register”;*

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

15 (10) *in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by in-*
16 *serting “COMPENSATION.—” before “The Register”.*

17 (b) *APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-*
18 *section (a) shall apply with respect to any vacancy for the*
19 *Register of Copyrights after January 1, 2017. If a Register*
20 *of Copyrights is appointed during the period beginning on*
21 *January 1, 2017 and ending on the day before the date*
22 *of the enactment of this Act, that Register shall meet the*
23 *requirements of the amendments made by this Act or shall*
24 *be replaced in accordance with such amendments.*

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