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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “(a) All administrative”

3 and inserting the following:

4 “(a) REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.—

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

6 (B) by striking “director” and inserting

7 “Director”;

8 (C) by inserting after the first sentence the

9 following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be

10 a citizen of the United States with a profes-

11 sional background and experience in copyright

12 law and shall be appointed by the President, by

13 and with the advice and consent of the Sen-

14 ate.”; and

15 (D) in the last sentence, by striking “shall

16 be appointed” and all that follows through “and

17 shall act” and inserting “shall act”;

18 (2) in subsection (b), by redesignating para-

19 graphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A)

20 through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins

21 accordingly;

22 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as para-

23 graph (2), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

24 (4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by in-

25 serting “DUTIES.—” before “In addition”;

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

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

7 “(4) REMOVAL.—

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

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

14 “(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

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

17 “(i) shall be appointed for a term of
18 10 years; and

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

22 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Register of Copy-
23 rights may not continue to serve after the date
24 on which Congress adjourns sine die after the

1 date on which the 10-year period described in
2 subparagraph (A)(i) ends.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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