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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SECTION 2. REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 701 of title 17, United
States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—

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

“(a) REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”;

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

(C) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be a citizen of the United States with a professional background and experience in copyright law and shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”; and

(D) in the last sentence, by striking “shall be appointed” and all that follows through “and shall act” and inserting “shall act”;
(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the follow-

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

"(4) REMOVAL.—

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

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

"(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

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

"(i) shall be appointed for a term of 
10 years; and

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

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

“(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual appointed to the position of Register of Copyrights, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, may be reappointed to that position in accordance with the requirements of this section.”;

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

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

(8) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by inserting “ANNUAL REPORT.—” before “The Register”;

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

(10) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by inserting “COMPENSATION.—” before “The Register”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any vacancy for the Register of Copyrights after January 1, 2017. If a Register of Copyrights is appointed during the period begin-
ning on January 1, 2017 and ending on the day before
the date of the enactment of this Act, that Register shall
meet the requirements of the amendments made by this
Act or shall be replaced in accordance with such amend-
ments.