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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

M. _____ 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.