April 19, 2017

RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-13 TEXT OF H.R. 1695, REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS SELECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

[Showing the text of H.R. 1695 as ordered reported by the Committee on the Judiciary.]

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 and shall be appointed by the President

1	from the individuals recommended under para-
2	graph (6), by and with the advice and consent
3	of the Senate."; and
4	(D) in the last sentence, by striking "shall
5	be appointed" and all that follows through "and
6	shall act" and inserting "shall act";
7	(2) in subsection (b), by redesignating para-
8	graphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A)
9	through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins
10	accordingly;
11	(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as para-
12	graph (2), and adjusting the margins accordingly;
13	(4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by in-
14	serting "Duties.—" before "In addition";
15	(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
16	lowing:
17	"(3) Oath.—The Register of Copyrights shall,
18	before taking office, take an oath to discharge faith-
19	fully the duties of the Copyright Office described in
20	paragraph (2).
21	"(4) Removal.—
22	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Register of Copy-
23	rights may be removed from office by the Presi-
24	dent.

1	"(B) Notification.—The President shall
2	provide notification to both Houses of Congress
3	of a removal under subparagraph (A).
4	"(5) Term of office.—
5	"(A) In general.—Subject to subpara-
6	graph (B), the Register of Copyrights—
7	"(i) shall be appointed for a term of
8	10 years; and
9	"(ii) may serve until a successor is ap-
10	pointed, confirmed, and taken the oath of
11	office.
12	"(B) LIMITATION.—The Register of Copy-
13	rights may not continue to serve after the date
14	on which Congress adjourns sine die after the
15	date on which the 10-year period described in
16	subparagraph (A)(i) ends.
17	"(C) Reappointment.—An individual ap-
18	pointed to the position of Register of Copy-
19	rights, by and with the advice and consent of
20	the Senate, may be reappointed to that position
21	in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
22	tion.
23	"(6) Panel for register of copyrights
24	RECOMMENDATIONS.—There is established a panel
25	to recommend a list of at least 3 individuals to the

1	President for appointment as the Register of Copy-
2	rights. The panel shall be composed of the following:
3	"(A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
4	resentatives.
5	"(B) The President pro tempore of the
6	Senate.
7	"(C) The majority and minority leaders of
8	the House of Representatives and the Senate.
9	"(D) The Librarian of Congress.";
10	(6) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
11	as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;
12	(7) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by in-
13	serting "Seal.—" before "The Register";
14	(8) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by in-
15	serting "Annual Report.—" before "The Reg-
16	ister";
17	(9) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by in-
18	serting "APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 5.—" before
19	"Except as provided"; and
20	(10) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
21	inserting "Compensation.—" before "The Reg-
22	ister".
23	(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
24	section (a) shall apply with respect to any vacancy for the
25	Register of Copyrights after January 1, 2017. If a Reg-

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

