

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.

