

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.

