

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide additional responsibilities for the Register of Copyrights, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.**

7 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 701 of title 17, United
8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

3 “(a) REGISTER AND DIRECTOR.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”;

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

7 (C) by inserting after the first sentence the
8 following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be
9 a citizen of the United States with a profes-
10 sional background and experience in copyright
11 law, shall be capable of identifying and super-
12 vising a Chief Information Officer or other
13 similar official responsible for managing mod-
14 ern information technology systems, and shall
15 be appointed by the President from the individ-
16 uals recommended under paragraph (6), by and
17 with the advice and consent of the Senate.”;
18 and

19 (D) in the last sentence, by striking “shall
20 be appointed” and all that follows through “and
21 shall act” and inserting “shall act”;

22 (2) in subsection (b), by redesignating para-
23 graphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A)
24 through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins
25 accordingly;

1 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as para-
2 graph (2), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

3 (4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by in-
4 serting “DUTIES.—” before “In addition”;

5 (5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
6 lowing:

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

11 “(4) REMOVAL.—

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

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

18 “(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

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

21 “(i) shall be appointed for a term of
22 10 years; and

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

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

6 “(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual ap-
7 pointed to the position of Register of Copy-
8 rights, by and with the advice and consent of
9 the Senate, may be reappointed to that position
10 in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
11 tion.

12 “(6) PANEL FOR REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
13 RECOMMENDATIONS.—There is established a panel
14 to recommend a list of at least 3 individuals to the
15 President for appointment as the Register of Copy-
16 rights. The panel shall be composed of the following:

17 “(A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives.

19 “(B) The President pro tempore of the
20 Senate.

21 “(C) The majority and minority leaders of
22 the House of Representatives and the Senate.

23 “(D) The Librarian of Congress.”;

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

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

3 (8) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by in-
4 sserting “ANNUAL REPORT.—” before “The Reg-
5 ister”;

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

9 (10) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
10 inserting “COMPENSATION.—” before “The Reg-
11 ister”.

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

21 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.**

22 Nothing in this Act may be construed to impact the
23 mandatory deposit requirements in title 17, United States
24 Code.