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) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “(a) All administrative”

and inserting the following:

“(a) Register and Director.—

“(1) In general.—All administrative”;

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

(C) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be a citizen of the United States with a professional background and experience in copyright law and shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”; and

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

(2) in subsection (b), by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as paragraph (2), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by inserting “Duties.—” before “In addition”;


(5) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) OATH.—The Register of Copyrights shall, before taking office, take an oath to discharge faithfully the duties of the Copyright Office described in paragraph (2).

“(4) REMOVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Register of Copyrights may be removed from office by the President.

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

“(5) TERM OF OFFICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Register of Copyrights—

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

“(ii) may serve until a successor is appointed, confirmed, and taken the oath of office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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