

Copyright Term Extension Bill Reintroduced

Rep. Gallegly (R-CA), along with nine co-sponsors, introduced the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997, H.R. 604, on February 5, 1997. Similar to legislation introduced last year in the House and Senate, this bill seeks to extend the term of ownership of a copyrighted work from the life of the author plus 50 years to the life of the author plus 70 years. This would provide U.S. copyright holders the same length of protection given to copyright holders in the European Union.

H.R. 604 includes an exemption (under certain circumstances) for libraries and archives for the last 20 years of any copyright term. This exemption seeks to address the concerns that an additional 20 years would place new burdens on libraries and archives. It is based on the 1996 discussions between members of the Shared Legal Capability (SLC)--representatives of ARL, AALL, ALA, MLA, and SLA--and members of the proprietary community that was facilitated by the Register of Copyrights.

Members of the SLC are evaluating the proposed exemption for libraries and archives. It is anticipated that the Senate will introduce companion legislation shortly.

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You may search for [more information about H.R. 604](#), the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997, on THOMAS, Legislative Information on the Internet provided by the Library of Congress.

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