96TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 414

To amend title 35 of the United States Code; to establish a uniform Federal patent procedure for small businesses and nonprofit organizations; to create a consistent policy and procedure concerning patentability of inventions made with Federal assistance; and for other related purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9 (legislative day, JANUARY 15), 1979

Mr. BAYH (for himself, and Mr. DOLE, Mr. BELLMON, Mr. DECONCINI, Mr. GARN, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MATHIAS, Mr. MATSUNAGA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. METZENBAUM, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. THURMOND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

To amend title 35 of the United States Code; to establish a uniform Federal patent procedure for small businesses and nonprofit organizations; to create a consistent policy and procedure concerning patentability of inventions made with Federal assistance; and for other related purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF TITLE 35, UNITED STATES CODE, PATENTS.—Title 35 of the United States Code is amended by adding after chapter 17, a new chapter as follows:

"CHAPTER 18.—PATENTABILITY OF INVENTIONS MADE WITH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

"Sec.
"200. Policy and objective.
"201. Definitions.
"202. Disposition of rights.
"203. March-in rights.
"204. Return of Government investment.
"205. Preference for United States industry.
"206. Confidentially.
"207. Uniform clauses.
"208. Domestic and foreign protection of federally owned inventions.
"209. Regulations governing Federal licensing.
"210. Coordination of Federal licensing practices.
"211. Restrictions on licensing of federally owned inventions.
"212. Precedence of chapter.
"213. Relationship to antitrust laws.

"SEC. 200. POLICY AND OBJECTIVE.—It is the policy and objective of the Congress to use the patent system to promote the utilization of inventions arising from federally supported research or development; to encourage maximum participation of small business firms in federally supported research and development efforts; to promote collaboration between commercial concerns and nonprofit organizations, including universities; to ensure that inventions made by nonprofit organizations and small business firms are used in a manner to promote free competition and enterprise; to promote the commercialization and public availability of inventions made in the United States by United States industry

and labor; to ensure that the Government obtains sufficient rights in federally supported inventions to meet the needs of the Government and protect the public against nonuse or unreasonable use of inventions; and to minimize the costs of administering policies in this area.

"SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.—As used in this chapter—

"(a) The term 'Federal agency' means any executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, and the military departments as defined by section 102 of title 5, United States Code.

"(b) The term 'funding agreement' means any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency and any person for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government. Such term includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement as herein defined.

"(c) The term 'contractor' means any person that is a party to funding agreement.

"(d) The term 'invention' means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under this title.

"(e) The term 'subject invention' means any invention of the contractor conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under a funding agreement.

"(f) The term 'practical application' means to manufacture in the case of a composition or product, to practice in the case of a process or method, or to operate in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations available to the public on reasonable terms.

"(g) The term 'made' when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

"(h) The term 'small business firm' means a small business concern as defined at section 2 of Public Law 85–536 (15 U.S.C. 632) and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

"(i) The term 'nonprofit organization' means universities and other institutions of higher education or an organization of the type described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)) and exempt from taxation under section

501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(a)).

"SEC. 202. DISPOSITION OF RIGHTS.—(a) Each nonprofit organization or small business firm may, within a reasonable time after disclosure as required by paragraph (c)(1) of this section, elect to retain title to any subject invention: *Provided, however,* That a funding agreement may provide otherwise (i) when the subject invention is made under a contract for the operation of a Government-owned research or production facility, or (ii) in exceptional circumstances when it is determined by the agency that restriction or elimination of the right to retain title to any subject invention will better promote the policy and objectives of this chapter. The rights of the nonprofit orgamization or small business firm shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this section and the other provisions of this chapter.

"(b)(1) Any determination under (ii) of paragraph (a) of this section shall be in writing and accompanied by a written statement of facts justifying the determination. A copy of each such determination and justification shall be sent to the Comptroller General of the United States within thirty days after the award of the applicable funding agreement. In the case of determinations applicable to funding agreements with small business firms copies shall also be sent to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

"(2) If the Comptroller General believes that any pattern of determinations by a Federal agency is contrary to the policy and objectives of this chapter or that an agency's policies or practices are otherwise not in conformance with this chapter, the Comptroller General shall so advise the head of the agency. The head of the agency shall advise the Comptroller General in writing within one hundred twenty days of what action, if any, the agency has taken or plans to take with respect to the matters raised by the Comptroller General.

"(3) At least once each year, the Comptroller General shall transmit a report to the Committees on Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives on the manner in which this chapter is being implemented by the agencies and on such other aspects of Government patent policies and practices with respect to federally funded inventions as the Comptroller General believes appropriate.

"(c) Each funding agreement with a small business firm or nonprofit organization shall contain appropriate provisions to effectuate the following:

"(1) A requirement that the contractor disclose each subject invention to the Federal agency within a reasonable time after it is made and that the Federal Government may receive title to any subject invention not reported to it within such time.

"(2) A requirement that the contractor make an election to retain title to any subject invention within a reasonable time after disclosure and that the Federal Government may receive title to any subject invention in which the contractor does not elect to retain rights or fails to elect rights within such time.

"(3) A requirement that a contractor electing rights file patent applications within reasonable times and that the Federal Government may receive title to any subject inventions in the United States or other countries in which the contractor has not filed patent applications on the subject invention within such times.

"(4) With respect to any invention in which the contractor elects rights, the Federal agency shall have a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or one behalf of the United States any subject invention throughout the world, and may, if provided in the funding agreement, have additional rights to sublicense any foreign government pursuant to any existing or future treaty or agreement.

"(5) The right of the Federal agency to require periodic reporting on the utilization or efforts at obtaining utilization that are being made by the contractor or his licensees or assignees: *Provided,* That any such in-

formation may be treated by the Federal agency as commercial and financial information obtained from a person and privileged and confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

"(6) An obligation on the part of the contractor, in the event a United States patent application is filed by or on its behalf or by any assignee of the contractor, to include within the specification of such application and any patent issuing thereon, a statement specifying that the invention was made with Government support and that the Government has certain rights in the invention.

"(7) In the case of a nonprofit organization, (a) a prohibition upon the assignment of rights to a subject invention in the United States without the approval of the Federal agency, except where such assignment is made to an organization which has as one of its primary functions the management of inventions and which is not, itself, engaged in or does not have a substantial proprietary interest in the manufacture or sale of products or the use of processes that might utilize the invention or be in competition with embodiments of the invention (provided that such assignee shall be subject to the same provisions as the contractor) (b) a prohibition against the granting of exclusive licenses under

United States Patents or Patent Applications in a subject invention by the contractor for a period in excess of the earlier of five years from first commercial sale or use of the invention or eight years from the date of the exclusive license excepting that time before regulatory agencies necessary to obtain premarket clearance unless, on a case-by-case basis, the Federal agency approves a longer exclusive license. If exclusive field of use licenses are granted, commercial sale or use in one field of use shall not be deemed commercial sale or use as to other fields of use; (c) a requirement that the contractor share royalties with the inventor; and (d) a requirement that the balance of any royalties or income earned by the contractor with respect to subject inventions, after payment of expenses (including payments to inventors) incidental to the administration of subject inventions, be utilized for the support of scientific research or education.

"(8) The requirements of sections 203, 204, and 205 of this chapter.

"(d) If a contractor does not elect to retain title to a subject invention in cases subject to this section, the Federal agency may consider and after consultation with the contractor grant requests for retention of rights by the inventor sub-

ject to the provisions of this Act and regulations promulgated hereunder.

"(e) In any case when a Federal employee is a coinventor of any invention made under a funding agreement with a nonprofit organization or small business firm, the Federal agency employing such coinventor is authorized to transfer or assign whatever rights it may acquire in the subject invention from its employee to the contractor subject to the conditions set forth in this chapter.

"SEC. 203. MARCH-IN RIGHTS.—With respect to any subject invention in which a small business firm or nonprofit organization has acquired title under this chapter, the Federal agency under whose funding agreement the subject invention was made shall have the right, in accordance with such procedures as are provided in regulations promulgated hereunder to require the subject inventor, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject invention to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances, and if the contractor, assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such request, to grant such a license itself, if the Federal agency determines either—

"(a) that such action is necessary because the contractor or assignee has not taken, or is not ex-

pected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use; or

"(b) that such action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs which are not reasonably satisfied by the contractor, assignee, or their licensees; or

"(c) that such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the contractor, assignee, or licensees; or

"(d) that such action is necessary because the agreement required by section 205 has not been obtained or waived or because a licensee of the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States is in breach of its agreement obtained pursuant to section 205.

"SEC. 204. RETURN OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT.—(a) If a nonprofit organization or small business firm receives $250,000 in after tax profits from the licensing of any subject invention within a period of ten years following disclosure of the invention, the United States shall be entitled to a share, to be negotiated, of up to 50 per centum of all net income during said period from licensing received by the contractor above $250,000: *Provided, however,* That in no event shall the United States be entitled to an amount greater than

that portion of the Federal funding under the funding agreement under which the subject invention was made which was expended on activities related to the making of the invention.

"(b) In addition, if a nonprofit organization or small business firm receives after tax profits in excess of $2,000,000 on sales of products embodying or manufactured by a process employing a subject invention, during a period of ten years commencing with commercial exploitation of the subject invention, the Government shall be entitled to a share, to be negotiated, of all additional income accruing from such sales up to the amount of the portion of the Government funding under the funding agreement under which the invention was made which was expended on activities related to the making of the invention less any amounts received by the Government in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section 204.

"(c) The Director of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy is authorized and directed to revise the figures of $250,000 and $2,000,000 in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section at least every three years in light of changes to the Consumer Price Index or other indices which he considers reasonable to use.

"SEC. 205. PREFERENCE FOR UNITED STATES INDUSTRY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no small business firm or nonprofit organization which re-

ceives title to any subject invention and no assignee of any such nonprofit organization shall grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States unless such person agrees that any products embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by the Federal agency under whose funding agreement the invention was made upon a showing by the small business firm, nonprofit organization, or assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to grant licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the United States.

"SEC. 206. CONFIDENTIALITY.—Federal agencies are authorized to withhold from disclosure to the public information disclosing any invention in which the Federal Government owns or may own a right, title, or interest (including a nonexclusive license) for a reasonable time in order for a patent application to be filed. Furthermore, Federal agencies shall not be required to release copies of any document which is part of an application for patent filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office or with any foreign patent office.

"SEC. 207. UNIFORM CLAUSES.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, after receiving recommendations of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, may issue regulations which may be made applicable to Federal agencies establishing standard funding agreement provisions required under this chapter.

"SEC. 208. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROTECTION OF FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS.—Each Federal agency is authorized to—

"(1) apply for, obtain, and maintain patents or other forms of protection in the United States and in foreign countries on inventions in which the Federal Government owns a right, title, or interest;

"(2) promote the licensing of inventions covered by federally owned patent applications, patents, or other forms of protection obtained with the objective of maximizing utilization by the public of the inventions covered thereby;

"(3) grant nonexclusive, exclusive, or partially exclusive licenses under federally owned patent applications, patents, or other forms of protection obtained, royalty-free or for royalties or other consideration, and on such terms and conditions, including the grant to the licensee of the right of enforcement pursuant to the

provisions of chapter 28 of this title as determined appropriate in the public interest;

"(4) make market surveys and other investigations for determining the potential of federally owned inventions for domestic and foreign licensing and other forms of utilization, acquire technical information, and engage in negotiations and other activities for promoting the licensing and for the purpose of enhancing their marketability and public utilization;

"(5) undertake all other suitable and necessary steps to protect and administer rights to federally owned inventions on behalf of the Federal Government either directly or through contract;

"(6) transfer custody and administration, in whole or in part, to the Department of Commerce or to another Federal agency, of the right, title, or interest in any federally owned invention for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (4), without regard to the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471); and

"(7) designate the Department of Commerce as recipient of any or all funds received from fees, royalties, or other management of federally owned inventions authorized under this chapter.

"SEC. 209. REGULATIONS GOVERNING FEDERAL LICENSING.—The Administrator of General Services is authorized to promulgate regulations specifying the terms and conditions upon which any federally owned invention may be licensed on a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive basis.

"SEC. 210. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL LICENSING PRACTICES.—The Secretary of Commerce is authorized in cooperation with other Federal agencies to—

"(1) coordinate a program for assisting all Federal agencies in carrying out the authority set forth in section 208;

"(2) publish notification of all federally owned inventions that are available for licensing;

"(3) evaluate inventions referred by Federal agencies, and patent applications filed thereon, in order to identify those inventions with the greatest commercial potential and to insure promotion and utilization by the public of inventions so identified;

"(4) assist the Federal agencies in seeking and maintaining protection on inventions in the United States and in foreign countries, including the payment of fees and costs connected therewith;

"(5) accept custody and administration, in whole or in part, of the right, title, and interest in any inven-

tion for the purposes set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 208, with the approval of the Federal agency concerned and without regard to the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Service Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471);

"(6) receive funds from fees, royalties, or other management of federally owned inventions authorized under this chapter, but such fund shall be used only for the purposes of this chapter; and

"(7) undertake such other functions directly or through such contracts as are necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this title.

"SEC. 211. RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSING OF FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS.—(a) No Federal agency shall grant any license under a patent or patent application on a federally owned invention unless the person requesting the license has supplied the agency with a plan for development and/or marketing of the invention.

"(b) A Federal agency shall normally grant the right to use or sell any federally owned invention in the United States only to a licensee that agrees that any products embodying the invention or produced through the use of the invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States.

"(c)(1) Each Federal agency may grant exclusive or partially exclusive licenses in any invention covered by a fed-

erally owned domestic patent or patent application only if, after public notice and opportunity for filing written objections, it is determined that—

"(A) the interests of the Federal Government and the public will best be served by the proposed license, in view of the applicant's intentions, plans, and ability to bring the invention to practical application or otherwise promote the invention's utilization by the public;

"(B) the desired practical application has not been achieved, or is not likely expeditiously to be achieved, under any nonexclusive license which has been granted, or which may be granted, on the invention;

"(C) exclusive or partially exclusive licensing is a reasonable and necessary incentive to call forth the investment of risk capital and expenditures to bring the invention to practical application or otherwise promote the invention's utilization by the public; and

"(D) the proposed terms and scope of exclusivity are not greater than reasonably necessary to provide the incentive for bringing the invention to practical application or otherwise promote the invention's utilization by the public.

"(2) A Federal agency shall not grant such exclusive or partially exclusive license under paragraph (1) of this subsection if it determines that the grant of such license will tend

substantially to lessen competition or result in undue concentration in any section of the country in any line of commerce to which the technology to be licensed relates, or to create or maintain other situations inconsistent with the antitrust laws.

"(3) First preference in the exclusive or partially exclusive licensing of federally owned inventions shall go to small business firms submitting plans that are determined by the agency to be within the capabilities of the firms and as likely, if executed, to bring the invention to practical application as any plans submitted by applicants that are not small business firms.

"(d) After consideration of whether the interests of the Federal Government or United States industry in foreign commerce will be enhanced, any Federal agency may grant exclusive or partially exclusive licenses in any invention covered by a foreign patent application or patent, after public notice and opportunity for filing written objections, except that a Federal agency shall not grant such exclusive or partially exclusive license if it determines that the grant of such license will tend substantially to lessen competition or result in undue concentration in any section of the country in any line of commerce to which the technology to be licensed relates, or to create or maintain other situations inconsistent with the antitrust laws.

"(e) The Federal agency shall maintain a record of determinations to grant exclusive or partially exclusive licenses.

"(f) Any grant of a license shall contain such terms and conditions as the Federal agency determines appropriate for the protection of the interests of the Federal Government and the public, including provisions for the following:

"(1) periodic reporting on the utilization or efforts at obtaining utilization that are being made by the licensee with particular reference to the plan submitted: *Provided,* That any such information may be treated by the Federal agency as commercial and financial information obtained from a person and privileged and confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act;

"(2) the right of the Federal agency to terminate such license in whole or in part if it determines that the licensee is not executing the plan submitted with its request for a license and the licensee cannot otherwise demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Federal Agency that it has taken or can be expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the invention;

"(3) the right of the Federal agency to terminate such license in whole or in part if the licensee is in

breach of an agreement obtained pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section; and

"(4) the right of the Federal agency to terminate the license in whole or in part if the agency determines that such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations issued after the date of the license and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the licensee.

"SEC. 212. PRECEDENCE OF ACT.—(a) This chapter shall take precedence over any other Act which would require a disposition of rights in subject inventions of small business firms or nonprofit organizations contractors in a manner that is inconsistent with this chapter, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

"(1) section 10(a) of the Act of June 29, 1935, as added by title 1 of the Act of August 14, 1946 (7 U.S.C. 427i(a); 60 Stat. 1085);

"(2) section 205(a) of the Act of August 14, 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1624(a); 60 Stat. 1090);

"(3) section 501(c) of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 (30 U.S.C. 951(c); 83 Stat. 742);

"(4) section 106(c) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 1935(c); 80 Stat. 721);

"(5) section 12 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1871(a); 82 Stat. 360);

"(6) section 152 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2182; 68 Stat. 943);

"(7) section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2457);

"(8) section 6 of the Coal Research Development Act of 1960 (30 U.S.C. 666; 74 Stat. 337);

"(9) section 4 of the Helium Act Amendments of 1960 (50 U.S.C. 167b; 74 Stat. 920);

"(10) section 32 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2572; 75 Stat. 634);

"(11) subsection (e) of section 302 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App. 302(e); 79 Stat. 5);

"(12) subsection (a)(2) of section 216 of title 38, United States Code;

"(13) section 9 of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5901; 88 Stat. 1878);

"(14) section 3 of the Act of June 22, 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1959d, note; 90 Stat. 694);

"(15) subsection (d) of section 6 of the Saline Water Conversion Act of 1971 (42 U.S.C. 1959(d); 85 Stat. 161);

"(16) section 303 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 1961c–3; 78 Stat. 332);

"(17) section 5(d) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2054(d); 88 Stat. 1211);

"(18) section 3 of the Act of April 5, 1944 (30 U.S.C. 323; 58 Stat. 191); and

"(19) section 8001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6981; 90 Stat. 2829).

The Act creating this chapter shall be construed to take precedence over any future Act unless that Act specifically cites this Act and provides that it shall take precedence over this Act.

"(b) Nothing in this chapter is intended to alter the effect of the laws cited in paragraph (a) of this section or any other laws with respect to the disposition of rights in inventions made in the performance of funding agreements with persons other than nonprofit organizations or small business firms.

"(c) Nothing in this chapter is intended to limit the authority of agencies to agree to the distribution of rights in inventions made in the performance of work under funding agreements with persons other than nonprofit organizations or small business firms in accordance with the Statement of Government Patent Policy issued by the President on August

23, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 16887), agency regulations, or other applicable regulations or to otherwise limit the authority of agencies to agree to allow such persons to retain ownership of such inventions.

"SEC. 213. RELATIONSHIP TO ANTITRUST LAWS.—Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to convey to any person immunity from civil or criminal liability, or to create any defenses to actions, under any antitrust law.".

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS.—The following Acts are amended as follows:

(a) Section 156 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2186; 68 Stat. 947) is amended by deleting the words "held by the Commission or".

(b) The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 is amended by repealing paragraph (g) of section 305 (42 U.S.C. 2457(g); 72 Stat. 436).

(c) The Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 is amended by repealing paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of section 9 (42 U.S.C. 5908 (g), (h), and (i); 88 Stat. 1889–1891).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect one hundred and eighty days after the date of its enactment, except that the regulations referred to in section 2, or other implementing regulations, may be issued prior to that time.

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