96TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6533

Amendments to title 35, United States Code, to establish a uniform Federal patent procedure for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, to improve the administration of the patent and trademark laws, by authorizing reexamination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 19, 1980

Mr. RAILSBACK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

Amendments to title 35, United States Code, to establish a uniform Federal patent procedure for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, to improve the administration of the patent and trademark laws, by authorizing reexamination, and for other 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 Patent Law Amendments of 1980".

SEC. 2. (a) AMENDMENT TO 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—PATENT RIGHTS IN 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. Confidentiality.
"207. Uniform clauses and regulations.
"208. Domestic and foreign protection of federally owned inventions.
"209. Regulations governing Federal licensing.
"210. Restrictions on licensing of federally owned inventions.
"211. Precedence of chapter.
"212. Relationship to antitrust laws.

"§ 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.

"§ 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 terms 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 a 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 re-

duced 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 of 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)).

"§ 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 funding agreement is for the operation of a Government-owned research or production facility, (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, or (iii) when it is determined by a Government authority which is authorized by statute or Executive order to conduct foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities that the restriction or elimination of the right to retain title to any subject invention is necessary to protect the security of such activities. The rights of the nonprofit organization 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 and twenty days of that 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 the 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 inventions 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 on 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 or international organization 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 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 section 552 of title 5 of the United States Code.

"(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 hold a substantial interest in other organizations engaged 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 to persons other than small business firms 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, and a first commercial sale or use with respect to a product of the invention shall not be deemed to end the exclusive period to different subsequent products covered by the invention; (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) in-

cidental 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 subject 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.

"(f)(1) No funding agreement with a small business firm or nonprofit organization shall contain a provision allowing a Federal agency to require the licensing to third parties of inventions owned by the contractor that are not subject inventions unless such provision has been approved by the head of the agency and a written justification has been signed by the head of the agency. Any such provision shall clearly state

whether the licensing may be required in connection with the practice of a subject invention, a specifically identified work object, or both. The head of the agency may not delegate the authority to approve provisions or sign justifications required by this paragraph.

"(2) A Federal agency shall not require the licensing of third parties under any such provision unless the head of the agency determines that the use of the invention by others is necessary for the practice of a subject invention or for the use of a work object of the funding agreement and that such action is necessary to achieve the practical application of the subject invention or work object. Any such determination shall be on the record after an opportunity for an agency hearing. Any action commenced for judicial review of such determination shall be brought within sixty days after notification of such determination.

"§ 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 contractor, 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 that such—

"(a) action is necessary because the contractor or assignee has not taken, or is not expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use;

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

"(c) 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) 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.

"§ 204. Return of Government investment

"(a) If after the first United States patent application is filed on a subject invention, a nonprofit organization, a small business firm, or an assignee of a subject invention of such an organization or firm to whom such invention was assigned for licensing purposes, receives $70,000 in gross income for any one calendar year from the licensing of a subject invention or several related subject inventions, the United States shall be entitled to 15 per centum of all income in excess of $70,000 for that year other than any such excess income received under nonexclusive licenses (except where the nonexclusive licensee previously held an exclusive or partially exclusive license).

"(b)(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), if after the first United States patent application is filed on a subject invention, a nonprofit organization, a small business firm, or an assignee of a subject invention of such an organization or firm, receives gross income of $1,000,000 for any one calendar year on sales of its products embodying or manufactured by a process employing one or more subject inventions, the United States shall be entitled to a share, the amount of which to be negotiated but not to exceed 5 per centum, of all gross income in excess of $1,000,000 for that year accruing from such sales.

"(2) In no event shall the United States be entitled to an amount greater than that portion of the Federal funding under the funding agreement or agreements under which the subject invention or inventions was or were made expended on activities related to the making of the invention or inventions less any amounts received by the United States under subsection (a) of this section. In any case in which more than one subject invention is involved, no expenditure funded by the United States shall be counted more than once in determining the maximum amount to which the United States is entitled.

"(c) The Director of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy is authorized and directed to revise the dollar amounts in subsections (a) and (b) of this section at least every three years in light of changes to the Consumer Price Index or other indices which the Director considers reasonable to use.

"(d) The entitlement of the United States under subsections (a) and (b) shall cease after (i) the United States Patent and Trademark Office issues a final rejection of the patent application covering the subject invention, (ii) the patent covering the subject invention expires, or (iii) the completion of litigation (including appeals) in which such a patent is finally found to be invalid.

"§ 205. Preference for United States industry

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no small business firm or nonprofit organization which receives title to any subject invention and no assignee of any such small business firm or 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 or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

"§ 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.

"§ 207. Uniform clauses and regulations

"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 implementing the provisions of sections 202 through 205 of this chapter and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy shall establish standard funding agreement provisions required under this chapter.

"§ 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) 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 29 of this title as determined appropriate in the public interest;

"(3) 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; and

"(4) transfer custody and administration, in whole or in part, to another Federal agency, of the right, title, or interest in any federally owned invention.

"§ 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.

"§ 210. 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, except that any such plan 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 section 552 of title 5 of the United States Code.

"(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 federally 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 equally 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 United States in any line of commerce to which the technology to be licensed relates, or to create or maintain other situations inconsistent with 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 section 552 of title 5 of the United States Code;

"(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 other-

wise 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.

"§ 211. Precedence of chapter

"(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 Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (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. 1395(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) section 9 of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5901; 88 Stat. 1878);

"(13) section 5(d) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2054(d); 86 Stat. 1211);

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

"(15) section 8001(c)(3) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6981(c); 90 Stat. 2829);

"(16) section 219 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2179; 83 Stat. 806);

"(17) section 427(b) of the Federal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 937(b); 86 Stat. 155);

"(18) section 306(d) of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1226(d); 91 Stat. 455);

"(19) section 21(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(d); 88 Stat. 1548);

"(20) section 6(b) of the Solar Photovoltaic Energy Research Development and Demonstration Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5585(b); 92 Stat. 2516);

"(21) section 12 of the Native Latex Commercialization and Economic Development Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 178(j); 92 Stat. 2533); and

"(22) section 408 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 7879; 92 Stat. 1360).

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.

"(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require the disclosure of intelligence sources or methods or to otherwise affect the authority granted to the Director of Central Intelligence by statute or Executive order for the protection of intelligence sources or methods.

"§ 212. 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.".

(b) The table of chapters for title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding immediately after the item relating to chapter 17 the following:

"18. Patent rights in invention made with Federal assistance.".

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. (a) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 35, UNITED STATES CODE, PATENTS.—Title 35 of the United States Code is amended by adding after chapter 18, a new chapter as follows:

"CHAPTER 19—PRIOR ART CITATIONS TO PATENT OFFICE AND REEXAMINATION OF PATENTS

"Sec.
"300. Rules established by Commissioner of Patents.
"301. Citation of art.
"302. Request for examination.
"303. Determination of issue by Commissioner of Patents.
"304. Reexamination ordered by Commissioner of Patents.
"305. Response or amendment by patent owner.
"306. Appeals.
"307. Certificate of patentability; unpatentability and claim cancellation.
"308. Reliance on art in court.
"309. Stay of court proceedings to permit Office review.
"310. Dismissal of complaint.

"§ 300. Rules established by Commissioner of Patents

"The Commissioner shall establish rules and regulations for the citation to the Office of prior art patents or publications, pertinent to the validity of patents, and for the reexamination of patents in the light of such prior art.

"§ 301. Citation of art

"Any person may, at any time within the period of enforceability of a patent, cite to the Office prior patents or publications which may have a bearing on the patentability of any claim of the patent: *Provided,* That the person citing such prior art identifies in writing the part(s) of the same considered pertinent and the manner of applying the same to at least one claim of the patent. The writing identifying and applying the same shall become a part of the official file of the patent. The identity of the person citing the prior art will be excluded from such file upon his request to remain anonymous.

"§ 302. Request for examination

"Any person may, at any time within the period of enforceability of a patent, request reexamination of the patent as to the patentability of any claim thereof in the light of any prior art cited under the provisions of section 301 of this chapter, by filing in the Office a written request for such reexamination accompanied by a reexamination fee prescribed according to this title and by a statement of the relation of such prior art to the patentability of the claim or claims involved. Unless the requesting person is the patentee, the Commissioner shall promptly send a copy of such request and statement to the owner of the patent appearing from the records of the Office at the time of the filing of the request.

"§ 303. Determination of issue by Commissioner of Patents

"(a) Within 90 days following the filing of a request for reexamination under section 302 of this chapter, the Commissioner shall make a determination as to whether a substantial new question of patentability affecting any claim of the patent concerned, not previously considered in examination or reexamination of such claim, is raised by the consideration, with or without any other prior art, of the prior art which has been cited in relation to the patent according to section 301 of this chapter. The Commissioner on his own initiative may make such a determination at any time.

"(b) A record of the Commissioner's determination under paragraph (a) of this section shall be made in the file of the patent, and a copy of it sent promptly to the owner of the patent.

"(c) A determination by the Commissioner pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section that such a new question of patentability is not so raised shall be final and nonappealable.

"§ 304. Reexamination ordered by Commissioner of Patents

"If, in a determination made pursuant to paragraph (a) of section 303, the Commissioner finds that a substantial new question of patentability affecting a claim or claims of the patent is raised by consideration of the patents and publications that have been cited in relation to the patent according to section 301 of this chapter, he shall order a reexamination of the patent for the resolution of the question, and shall proceed to resolve it as though the claim or claims involved were present in a pending application. The patent owner shall be given a reasonable period, not less than two months, after the filing of the reexamination order within which he may file a statement on such question for consideration in the reexamination. The patentee shall serve a copy of such statement on any person who has requested examination according to section 302 of this chapter and such person shall have the right, within a period of two months from such service, to

submit a reply to the patentees statement. Any reexamination proceeding under this section shall be conducted with special dispatch within the Office.

"§ 305. Response or amendment by patent owner

"The patent owner shall be provided an opportunity in any reexamination proceeding under this chapter to amend any claim of his patent in order to distinguish the claim from prior art cited according to section 301 of this chapter, or in response to a decision adverse to the patentability of the claim, but no amendment enlarging the scope of a claim shall be permitted in a reexamination proceeding under this chapter.

"§ 306. Appeals

"The owner of a patent involved in a reexamination proceeding under this chapter may appeal from a final decision in such proceeding adverse to the patentability of any claim, or amended claim, of the patent.

"§ 307. Certificate of patentability; unpatentability and claim cancellation

"When in a reexamination proceeding under this chapter the time for appeal has expired or any appeal proceeding has terminated, the Commissioner shall issue and publish a certificate canceling any claim of the patent finally determined in such proceeding or on appeal therein to be unpatentable, confirming any claim of the patent so determined to be

patentable, and incorporating in the patent any amended claim thereof so determined to be patentable.

"§ 308. Reliance on art in court

"No patent or (printed) publication may be relied upon as evidence or nonpatentability in a civil action involving an issue of validity or infringement of a patent unless (a) the patent or publication was cited by or to the Office during prosecution of the application for the patent or was submitted for consideration by the Office in accordance with sections 301 and 302 of this chapter and was actually considered in accordance with section 303, or (b) the court, upon motion, concludes such submission and reconsideration to be unnecessary for its adjudication of the issue of validity or infringement.

"The limitation provided by this section shall apply in any civil action in which a pleading presents a claim for infringement or for adjudication of the validity of a patent, upon the basis of the contents of the patent file as it existed on the date of the filing of such pleading, excepting that a party may rely upon a patent or publication cited later, and upon the final determination had on a request for reexamination in the light of such patent or publication if such patent or publication was cited and such request was filed in the Office within the period of a stay ordered by the court in accordance with section 309 of this chapter.

"§ 309. Stay of court proceedings to permit Office review

"(a) Any party to a civil action against whom a pleading presents a claim for infringement or for adjudication of the validity of a patent shall have the right, by motion brought before any responsive pleading, to secure a stay of all proceedings in the action by order of the court for a period, not less than four months, sufficient to enable such party to search for and cite patents or publications considered pertinent to the patent and to request reexamination of the patent in view of such prior art according to sections 301 and 302 of this chapter. If such party files a request for such reexamination in the Office and serves and files a copy of it in the action within the period of the stay provided by such order, the stay shall be extended by further order of the court until at least 20 days after the final determination of the request for reexamination.

"(b) The court, on motion and upon such terms as are just, may at any time stay the proceedings in a civil action in which the validity of a patent is in issue for a period sufficient to enable the moving party to cite to the Office newly discovered additional prior art in the nature of patents or (printed) publications and to secure final determination of a request for reexamination of the patent in the light of such additional prior art, provided the court finds that such additional prior art, in fact, constitutes newly discovered evidence which by

due diligence could not have been discovered in time to be cited to and considered by the Office within the period of a stay of such proceedings that was or could have been secured according to subsection (a) of this section.

"§ 310. Dismissal of complaint

"The party or parties whose complaint commencing a civil action presents a claim for infringement or for adjudication of the validity of a patent shall have the right, by notice served upon the other party or parties and filed in the action at any time within the period of a stay ordered by the court pursuant to section 309 of this chapter, to dismiss such complaint without prejudice and without costs to any party.".

SEC. 5. Title 35 of the United States Code is hereby amended as follows:

SEC. 6. Section 1 is repealed and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

"§ 1. Establishment

"The Patent and Trademark Office, referred to in this chapter as the 'Office', shall be an independent agency, where records, books, drawings, specifications, and other papers and things pertaining to patents and to trademark registrations shall be kept and preserved, except as otherwise provided by law.".

SEC. 7. Section 3(a) is amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "The

Commissioner shall be the Chief Officer of the Office and shall be a person of substantial experience in patent and trademark matters. The Commissioner shall be appointed for a fixed term of six years and shall be removable from office by the President for good cause. The Commissioner shall appoint all other officers and employees of the Office.".

SEC. 8. (a) Section 3(b) is repealed.

(b) In section 3(c) the words "Secretary of Commerce" are struck out and the word "Commissioner" inserting in lieu thereof, and section 3(c) is redesignated as section 3(b).

(c) In section 6, the words "under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce" and "subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" are struck out wherever found.

(d) In section 7, strike out "Secretary of Commerce" and insert in lieu thereof "Commissioner".

(e) In section 31, strike out, "subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce".

(f) In section 181, the third paragraph, in the last sentence strike out "appeal to the Secretary of Commerce" and insert in lieu thereof "a right to appeal from the order under rules prescribed by the Commissioner".

(g) In section 188, strike out "Secretary of Commerce" and insert in lieu thereof "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks".

SEC. 9. Section 1511(e) of title 15, United States Code, is repealed.

SEC. 10. This Act and the amendments made by 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.