SUMMARY OF UNIFORM PATENT PROCEDURES ACT OF 1983:

The bill would standardize agency patent procurement policies and procedures and encourage private sector development of new discoveries made under a federal research and development contract, in the following specific ways:

- It creates a presumption in favor of contractor ownership of new inventions developed under federal R&D contracts;

- It prohibits agencies from requiring the surrender of so-called "background rights"*as a pre-condition to obtainment of a federal R&D contract except where the agency head personally determines that such rights are essential to the accomplishment of agency purposes in the contract ;

- It streamlines the procurement procedures, establishes one policy for all government agencies, and conforms that policy to the principles of P.L. 96-517;

- It eliminates existing provisions of law that unnecessarily complicate the procurement process.

* "Background rights" refers to the contractor's interest in inventions and technical data which were not developed pursuant to a federal R&D contract, but which pre-dated that contract. It has been a common agency practice to automatically require federal contract participants to surrender such interests to the agency as a condition of obtaining a federal R&D contract.