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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1993

Public Law 103-179
103d Congress

An Act

Dec. 3, 1993
[H.R. 2632]

To authorize appropriations for the Patent and Trademark Office in the Department of Commerce for fiscal year 1994, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 1993.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 1993".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF AMOUNTS AVAILABLE TO THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Patent and Trademark Office for salaries and necessary expenses the sum of $103,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, to be derived from deposits in the Patent and Trademark Office Fee Surcharge Fund established under section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (35 U.S.C. note).

(b) FEES.—There are also authorized to be made available to the Patent and Trademark Office for fiscal year 1994, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, such sums as are equal to the amount collected during such fiscal year from fees under title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 and following).

SEC. 3. AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE CARRIED OVER.

Amounts appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act may remain available until expended.

15 USC 1113 note.

SEC. 4. ADJUSTMENT OF TRADEMARK FEES.

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the fee under section 31(a) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1113(a)) for filing an application for the registration of a trademark shall be $245. Any adjustment of such fee under the second sentence of such section may not be effective before October 1, 1994.

SEC. 5. INTERIM PATENT EXTENSIONS.

Section 156 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(4) by striking out "extended" and inserting "extended under subsection (e)(1)";

(2) in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) by striking "Such" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (5), such"; and

(3) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following new paragraph:

"(5)(A) If the owner of record of the patent or its agent reasonably expects that the applicable regulatory review period described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), (3)(B)(ii), (4)(B)(ii), or (5)(B)(ii) of subsection (g) that began for a product that is the subject of such patent may extend beyond the expiration of the patent term in effect, the owner or its agent may submit an application to the Commissioner for an interim extension during the period beginning 6 months, and ending 15 days, before such term is due to expire. The application shall contain—

"(i) the identity of the product subject to regulatory review and the Federal statute under which such review is occurring;

"(ii) the identity of the patent for which interim extension is being sought and the identity of each claim of such patent which claims the product under regulatory review or a method of using or manufacturing the product;

"(iii) information to enable the Commissioner to determine under subsection (a)(1), (2), and (3) the eligibility of a patent for extension;

"(iv) a brief description of the activities undertaken by the applicant during the applicable regulatory review period to date with respect to the product under review and the significant dates applicable to such activities; and

"(v) such patent or other information as the Commissioner may require.

"(B) If the Commissioner determines that, except for permission to market or use the product commercially, the patent would be eligible for an extension of the patent term under this section, the Commissioner shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of such determination, including the identity of the product under regulatory review, and shall issue to the applicant a certificate of interim extension for a period of not more than 1 year. Federal Register, publication.

"(C) The owner of record of a patent, or its agent, for which an interim extension has been granted under subparagraph (B), may apply for not more than 4 subsequent interim extensions under this paragraph, except that, in the case of a patent subject to subsection (g)(6)(C), the owner of record of the patent, or its agent, may apply for only 1 subsequent interim extension under this paragraph. Each such subsequent application shall be made during the period beginning 60 days before, and ending 30 days before, the expiration of the preceding interim extension.

"(D) Each certificate of interim extension under this paragraph shall be recorded in the official file of the patent and shall be considered part of the original patent.

"(E) Any interim extension granted under this paragraph shall terminate at the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the product involved receives permission for commercial marketing or use, except that, if within that 60-day period the applicant notifies the Commissioner of such permission and submits any additional information under paragraph (1) of this subsection not previously contained in the application for interim extension, the patent shall be further extended, in accordance with the provisions of this section—

"(i) for not to exceed 5 years from the date of expiration of the original patent term; or

"(ii) if the patent is subject to subsection (g)(6)(C), from the date on which the product involved receives approval for commercial marketing or use.

"(F) The rights derived from any patent the term of which is extended under this paragraph shall, during the period of interim extension—

"(i) in the case of a patent which claims a product, be limited to any use then under regulatory review;

"(ii) in the case of a patent which claims a method of using a product, be limited to any use claimed by the patent then under regulatory review; and

"(iii) in the case of a patent which claims a method of manufacturing a product, be limited to the method of manufacturing as used to make the product then under regulatory review.".

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 156 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "(d)" and inserting "(d)(1)"; and

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking "subsection (d)" and inserting "paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (d)";

(2) in subsection (b) by striking "The rights" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (d)(5)(F), the rights"; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "subsection (d)" and inserting "paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (d)"; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking "(d)" and inserting "(d)(1)".

SEC. 7. PATENT TERM EXTENSIONS FOR AMERICAN LEGION.

(a) BADGE OF AMERICAN LEGION.—The term of a certain design patent numbered 54,296 (for the badge of the American Legion) is renewed and extended for a period of 14 years beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, with all the rights and privileges pertaining to such patent.

(b) BADGE OF AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.—The term of a certain design patent numbered 55,398 (for the badge of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary) is renewed and extended for a period of 14 years beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, with all the rights and privileges pertaining to such patent.

(c) BADGE OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.—The term of a certain design patent numbered 92,187 (for the badge of the Sons of the American Legion) is renewed and extended for a period of 14 years beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, with all the rights and privileges pertaining to such patent.

SEC. 8. INTERVENING RIGHTS.

The renewals and extensions of the patents under section 6 shall not result in infringement of any such patent on account of any use of the subject matter of the patent, or substantial preparation for such use, which began after the patent expired, but before the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved December 3, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2632:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-285 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):
Oct. 12, considered and passed House.
Nov. 10, considered and passed Senate, amended.
Nov. 19, House concurred in Senate amendment with amendments.
Nov. 20, Senate concurred in House amendments.

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