UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY CODE AMENDMENTS

29-139 O - 88 (506)

Public Law 100-506
100th Congress

An Act

Oct. 18, 1988
[S. 1626]

To keep secure the rights of intellectual property licensors and licensees which come under the protection of title 11 of the United States Code, the bankruptcy code.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 11 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (50) by striking "and" at the end, and

(2) in paragraph (51) by striking the period at the end and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon, and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(52) 'intellectual property' means—

"(A) trade secret;

"(B) invention, process, design, or plant protected under title 35;

"(C) patent application;

"(D) plant variety;

"(E) work of authorship protected under title 17; or

"(F) mask work protected under chapter 9 of title 17; to the extent protected by applicable nonbankruptcy law; and

"(53) 'mask work' has the meaning given it in section 901(a)(2) of title 17.".

(b) EXECUTORY CONTRACTS LICENSING RIGHTS TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—Section 365 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(n)(1) If the trustee rejects an executory contract under which the debtor is a licensor of a right to intellectual property, the licensee under such contract may elect—

"(A) to treat such contract as terminated by such rejection if such rejection by the trustee amounts to such a breach as would entitle the licensee to treat such contract as terminated by virtue of its own terms, applicable nonbankruptcy law, or an agreement made by the licensee with another entity; or

"(B) to retain its rights (including a right to to enforce any exclusivity provision of such contract, but excluding any other right under applicable nonbankruptcy law to specific performance of such contract) under such contract and under any agreement supplementary to such contract, to such intellectual property (including any embodiment of such intellectual property to the extent protected by applicable nonbankruptcy law), as such rights existed immediately before the case commenced, for—

"(i) the duration of such contract; and

"(ii) any period for which such contract may be extended by the licensee as of right under applicable nonbankruptcy law.

"(2) If the licensee elects to retain its rights, as described in paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection, under such contract—

"(A) the trustee shall allow the licensee to exercise such rights;

"(B) the licensee shall make all royalty payments due under such contract for the duration of such contract and for any period described in paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection for which the licensee extends such contract; and

"(C) the licensee shall be deemed to waive—

"(i) any right of setoff it may have with respect to such contract under this title or applicable nonbankruptcy law; and

"(ii) any claim allowable under section 503(b) of this title arising from the performance of such contract.

"(3) If the licensee elects to retain its rights, as described in paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection, then on the written request of the licensee the trustee shall—

"(A) to the extent provided in such contract, or any agreement supplementary to such contract, provide to the licensee any intellectual property (including such embodiment) held by the trustee; and

"(B) not interfere with the rights of the licensee as provided in such contract, or any agreement supplementary to such contract, to such intellectual property (including such embodiment) including any right to obtain such intellectual property (or such embodiment) from another entity.

"(4) Unless and until the trustee rejects such contract, on the written request of the licensee the trustee shall—

"(A) to the extent provided in such contract or any agreement supplementary to such contract—

"(i) perform such contract; or

"(ii) provide to the licensee such intellectual property (including any embodiment of such intellectual property to the extent protected by applicable nonbankruptcy law) held by the trustee; and

"(B) not interfere with the rights of the licensee as provided in such contract, or any agreement supplementary to such contract, to such intellectual property (including such embodiment), including any right to obtain such intellectual property (or such embodiment) from another entity.".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS. 11 USC 101 note.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by this Act shall not apply with respect to any case commenced under title 11 of the United States Code before the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved October 18, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1626 (H.R. 5348):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-1012 accompanying H.R. 5348 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-505 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):
Sept. 20, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 3, 4, H.R. 5348 considered and passed House; proceedings vacated and S. 1626 passed in lieu.