

92^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1254

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 1971

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

To amend title 35, United States Code, "Patents"; and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That section 3, title 35 of the United States Code is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 **"§ 3. Officers and employees**

6 " (a) There shall be in the Patent Office a Commissioner
7 of Patents, a deputy commissioner, two assistant commis-
8 sioners, and not more than fifteen examiners-in-chief. The
9 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Patents and Trade-
10 marks, shall, ex officio, be the Commissioner of Patents. The
11 deputy commissioner, or, in the event of a vacancy in that

1 office, the assistant commissioner senior in date of appoint-
2 ment shall fill the office of Commissioner during a vacancy
3 in that office until the Commissioner is appointed, and takes
4 office. The Commissioner of Patents, the deputy commis-
5 sioner, and the assistant commissioners shall be appointed by
6 the President, by and with the advice and consent of the
7 Senate. The Secretary of Commerce, upon the nomination
8 of the Commissioner, in accordance with law, shall appoint
9 all other officers and employees.

10 “(b) The Secretary of Commerce may vest in himself
11 the functions of the Patent Office and its officers and em-
12 ployees specified in this title and may from time to time
13 authorize their performance by any other officer or employee.

14 “(c) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to fix
15 the per annum rate of basic compensation of each examiner-
16 in-chief in the Patent Office at not in excess of the maximum
17 scheduled rate provided for positions in grade 17 of the
18 General Schedule of the Classification Act of 1949, as
19 amended.”

20 SEC. 2. The first paragraph of section 7 of title 35 of
21 the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

22 “The examiners-in-chief shall be persons of competent
23 legal knowledge and scientific ability, who shall be appointed
24 under the classified civil service. The Commissioner, the Dep-
25 uty Commissioner, the assistant commissioners, and the ex-

1 examiners-in-chief shall constitute a Board of Appeals, which
2 on written appeal of the applicant, shall review adverse
3 decisions of examiners upon applications for patents. Each
4 appeal shall be heard by at least three members of the Board
5 of Appeals, the members hearing such appeal to be desig-
6 nated by the Commissioner. The Board of Appeals has sole
7 power to grant rehearings.”

8 SEC. 3. Section 151 of title 35 of the United States
9 Code is amended to read as follows:

10 **“§ 151. Issue of patent**

11 “(a) If it is determined that an applicant is entitled
12 to a patent under the law, a written notice of allowance
13 of the application shall be given or mailed to the applicant.
14 The notice shall specify a sum, constituting the issue fee
15 or a portion thereof, which shall be paid within three
16 months thereafter.

17 “(b) Upon payment of this sum the patent shall issue,
18 but if payment is not timely made, the application shall be
19 regarded as abandoned.

20 “(c) Any remaining balance of the issue fee shall be
21 paid within three months from the sending of a notice
22 thereof and, if not paid, the patent shall lapse at the ter-
23 mination of the three-month period. In calculating the
24 amount of a remaining balance, charges for a page or less
25 may be disregarded.

1 “(d) If any payment required by this section is not
2 timely made, but is submitted with the fee for delayed pay-
3 ment and the delay in payment is shown to have been un-
4 avoidable, it may be accepted by the Commissioner as
5 though no abandonment or lapse had ever occurred.”

6 SEC. 4. (a) There shall be in the Department of Com-
7 merce, in addition to the Assistant Secretaries now provided
8 by law, one additional Assistant Secretary of Commerce who
9 shall be known as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
10 Patents and Trademarks, shall be appointed by the President
11 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall re-
12 ceive compensation at the rate prescribed by law for Assistant
13 Secretaries of Commerce, and shall perform such duties as
14 the Secretary of Commerce shall prescribe.

15 (b) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is
16 amended by striking “(7)” at the end of item (12) and
17 substituting “(8)”.

18 (c) Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is
19 amended by striking item (48).

1 SEC. 5. This Act shall be effective upon enactment. Ex-
2 aminers-in-chief in office on the date of enactment shall con-
3 tinue in office under and in accordance with their then exist-
4 ing appointments.

Passed the Senate April 22, 1971.

Attest:

FRANCIS R. VALEO,

Secretary.

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