

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2047

To authorize appropriations for the United States Patent and Trademark Office for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2001

Mr. COBLE (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the United States Patent and Trademark Office for fiscal year 2002, 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Patent and Trademark
5 Office Authorization Act of 2002”.

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

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to the
9 United States Patent and Trademark Office for salaries
10 and necessary expenses for fiscal year 2002 an amount

1 equal to the fees collected in fiscal year 2002 under title
2 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946
3 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 3. ELECTRONIC FILING AND PROCESSING OF PATENT**
5 **AND TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS.**

6 (a) **ELECTRONIC FILING AND PROCESSING.**—The
7 Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
8 and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark
9 Office (in this Act referred to as the “Director”) shall de-
10 velop an electronic system for the filing and processing
11 of patent and trademark applications, that—

12 (1) is user friendly; and

13 (2) includes the necessary infrastructure—

14 (A) to allow examiners and applicants to
15 send all communications electronically; and

16 (B) to allow the Office to process, main-
17 tain, and search electronically the contents and
18 history of each application.

19 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)
21 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003.
22 Amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall
23 remain available until expended.

1 **SEC. 4. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

2 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—The Director shall, in
3 close consultation with the Patent Public Advisory Com-
4 mittee and the Trademark Public Advisory Committee, de-
5 velop a strategic plan that sets forth the goals and meth-
6 ods by which the United States Patent and Trademark
7 Office will, during the 5-year period beginning on October
8 1, 2002—

- 9 (1) enhance patent and trademark quality;
- 10 (2) reduce patent and trademark pendency; and
- 11 (3) develop and implement an effective elec-
12 tronic system for use by the Patent and Trademark
13 Office and the public for all aspects of the patent
14 and trademark processes, including, in addition to
15 the elements set forth in section 3, searching, exam-
16 ining, communicating, publishing, and making pub-
17 licly available, patents and trademark registrations.

18 The strategic plan shall include milestones and objective
19 and meaningful criteria for evaluating the progress and
20 successful achievement of the plan. The Director shall con-
21 sult with the Public Advisory Committees with respect to
22 the development of each aspect of the strategic plan.

23 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
24 The Director shall, not later than January 15, 2002, sub-
25 mit the plan developed under subsection (a) to the Com-

1 mittees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
2 and the Senate.

3 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 This Act shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

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