

Public Law 111–45  
111th Congress

An Act

Aug. 7, 2009  
[H.R. 3114]

To authorize the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to use funds made available under the Trademark Act of 1946 for patent operations in order to avoid furloughs and reductions-in-force, and for other purposes.

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

35 USC 41 note.

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF PTO DIRECTOR TO USE TRADEMARK FUNDS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—

(A) may use funds made available for fiscal year 2009, pursuant to section 31 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1113), under the heading “Department of Commerce—United States Patent and Trademark Office—Salaries and Expenses” in title I of division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8), up to \$70,000,000, to support the processing of patents and other activities, services, and materials relating to patents, notwithstanding section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code; and

(B) notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall, upon the exercise of the authority under subparagraph (A), establish a surcharge, in amounts up to \$70,000,000, on patent fees in effect under title 35, United States Code, to repay any funds drawn down pursuant to subparagraph (A),

Certification.

if the Director certifies in writing to the Congress that the use of the funds described in subparagraph (A) is reasonably necessary to avoid furloughs or a reduction-in-force, or both, in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and does not create a substantial risk of a furlough or reduction-in-force of personnel working in the Trademark Operation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) **SURCHARGES DEPOSITED IN TREASURY.**—All surcharges paid under paragraph (1)(B) shall be deposited in the Treasury as an offsetting receipt that shall not be available for obligation or expenditure.

Termination date.  
Deadlines.

(b) **LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.**—The authority under subsection (a)(1)(A) shall terminate on June 30, 2010. The surcharge established under subsection (a)(1)(B) shall take effect no later than September 30, 2011, and all funds drawn down pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be repaid pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(B) no later than September 30, 2014.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The terms “Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office” and “Director” mean the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.—The term “Trademark Act of 1946” means the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

Approved August 7, 2009.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3114 (S. 1358):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 155 (2009):

July 7, considered and passed House.

July 16, considered and passed Senate.