

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3295

AN ACT

To amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, 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. APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PATENT**
 4 **JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRADEMARK**
 5 **JUDGES.**

6 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE PATENT JUDGES.—Section 6 of
 7 title 35, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
 10 “Deputy Commissioner” and inserting “Deputy
 11 Director”; and

12 (B) in the last sentence, by striking “Di-
 13 rector” and inserting “Secretary of Commerce,
 14 in consultation with the Director”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(c) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
 17 retary of Commerce may, in his or her discretion, deem
 18 the appointment of an administrative patent judge who,
 19 before the date of the enactment of this subsection, held
 20 office pursuant to an appointment by the Director to take
 21 effect on the date on which the Director initially appointed
 22 the administrative patent judge.

23 “(d) DEFENSE TO CHALLENGE OF APPOINTMENT.—
 24 It shall be a defense to a challenge to the appointment
 25 of an administrative patent judge on the basis of the

1 judge's having been originally appointed by the Director
 2 that the administrative patent judge so appointed was act-
 3 ing as a de facto officer.”.

4 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE TRADEMARK JUDGES.—Section
 5 17 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registra-
 6 tion and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to
 7 carry out the provisions of certain international conven-
 8 tions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946
 9 (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946”;
 10 15 U.S.C. 1067), is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) by inserting “Deputy Director of the
 13 United States Patent and Trademark Office”,
 14 after “Director,”; and

15 (B) by striking “appointed by the Direc-
 16 tor” and inserting “appointed by the Secretary
 17 of Commerce, in consultation with the Direc-
 18 tor”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(c) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
 21 retary of Commerce may, in his or her discretion, deem
 22 the appointment of an administrative trademark judge
 23 who, before the date of the enactment of this subsection,
 24 held office pursuant to an appointment by the Director

1 to take effect on the date on which the Director initially
2 appointed the administrative trademark judge.

3 “(d) DEFENSE TO CHALLENGE OF APPOINTMENT.—
4 It shall be a defense to a challenge to the appointment
5 of an administrative trademark judge on the basis of the
6 judge’s having been originally appointed by the Director
7 that the administrative trademark judge so appointed was
8 acting as a de facto officer.”.

Passed the Senate July 22, 2008.

Attest:

Secretary.

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