

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3372

To improve and promote compliance with international intellectual property obligations and to defend United States intellectual property interests from suspension of benefits abroad, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2005

Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. DELAHUNT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve and promote compliance with international intellectual property obligations and to defend United States intellectual property interests from suspension of benefits abroad, 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 “United States Trade-
5 mark Defense Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) Trademarks and trade names are vital as-
5 sets of the many United States businesses that en-
6 gage in international trade.

7 (2) Worldwide sales of branded products of
8 United States businesses contribute in important
9 ways to the livelihood of American workers and the
10 well-being and continued healthy growth of numer-
11 ous United States businesses. These sales depend, in
12 turn, on the protection that other countries afford to
13 the trademarks and trade names of United States
14 businesses under treaties and international agree-
15 ments.

16 (3) Among such treaties and agreements are
17 the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellec-
18 tual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade
19 Organization (WTO), the Paris Convention for the
20 Protection of Industrial Property, and the General
21 Inter-American Convention for Trade Mark and
22 Commercial Protection.

23 (4) The United States should ensure that the
24 trademark and trade names of United States busi-
25 nesses continue to be protected abroad by working
26 to ensure that other countries comply with their obli-

1 gations under intellectual property rights treaties
2 and agreements. At the same time, the United
3 States should adhere to its obligations under such
4 treaties and agreements.

5 (5) Hundreds of United States businesses have
6 registered their trademarks in Cuba in order to en-
7 sure the exclusive right to use those trademarks
8 when the United States trade embargo on that coun-
9 try is lifted. Indeed, following the enactment of the
10 Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement
11 Act of 2000, many United States businesses are al-
12 ready exporting branded food products to Cuba.

13 (6) The United States District Court for the
14 Southern District of New York ruled that section
15 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related
16 Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as contained in
17 section 101(b) of division A of Public Law 105–277;
18 112 Stat. 2681–88) abrogates, with respect to Cuba,
19 the General Inter-American Convention on Trade
20 Mark and Commercial Protection. The District
21 Court’s ruling was affirmed by the United States
22 Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

23 (7) Cuba’s international remedy under cus-
24 tomary international law, as codified by Article 60 of
25 the 1969 Vienna Convention on Treaties, for a

1 breach by the United States of the General Inter-
2 American Convention on Trade Mark and Commer-
3 cial Protection, is to suspend or revoke the protec-
4 tions Cuba currently affords United States trade-
5 marks and trade names.

6 (8) Since 1996, hundreds of United States
7 businesses have registered over 50,000 European
8 Community trademarks, and thousands of trade-
9 mark registrations in individual European Union
10 member states, in order to ensure the exclusive right
11 to use their trademarks in the territory of the Euro-
12 pean Union.

13 (9) The World Trade Organization upheld a
14 challenge by the European Community and ruled
15 that section 211 of the Department of Commerce
16 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, is
17 inconsistent with the obligations of the United
18 States under the Agreement on Trade-Related As-
19 pects of Intellectual Property Rights, including pro-
20 visions of the Paris Convention for the Protection of
21 Industrial Property.

22 (10) If the United States fails to bring its law
23 into conformity with the WTO ruling, the remedy of
24 the European Community, as provided by the Dis-
25 pute Settlement Understanding of the World Trade

1 Organization, is compensation and the suspension of
2 concessions or other obligations that the European
3 Community and its member states currently afford
4 to intellectual property and other trade interests of
5 the United States and its citizens.

6 (11) In order to preserve the rights of United
7 States nationals holding trademarks and trade
8 names in Cuba, in the European Union and its
9 members states, and in other countries, the United
10 States must repeal section 211 of the Department of
11 Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
12 1999, and should take the necessary steps to pro-
13 mote the long-term protection of trademarks, trade
14 names, and domain names held by United States na-
15 tionals in that country.

16 (12) Since long prior to the enactment of sec-
17 tion 211 of the Department of Commerce and Re-
18 lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, it has been
19 the practice of the Federal courts to provide equity
20 in adjudicating disputes involving the United States
21 trademark rights of foreign nationals whose busi-
22 nesses at home have been confiscated by their gov-
23 ernments.

24 (13) Therefore, section 211 of the Department
25 of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations

1 Act, 1999, is not necessary for the courts to reach
2 equitable results with respect to the trademark and
3 trade name rights of foreign nationals who have suf-
4 fered from confiscation of their businesses at home,
5 and that the repeal of such section will return to the
6 courts the full authority to give due consideration to
7 all the relevant issues, both legal and equitable, with
8 respect to such trademarks and trade names.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to improve
10 and promote compliance with international intellectual
11 property obligations and to defend United States intellec-
12 tual property interests from suspension of benefits abroad,
13 including in the European Community and its member
14 states, Cuba, and in signatories of the General Inter-
15 American Convention for Trade Mark and Commercial
16 Protection and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects
17 of Intellectual Property Rights.

18 **SEC. 3. ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS**

19 **AND UNDERSTANDINGS.**

20 (a) REPEAL.—Section 211 of the Department of
21 Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
22 1999 (as contained in section 101(b) of division A of Pub-
23 lic Law 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681–88) is repealed.

24 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the

1 Treasury shall issue such regulations as are necessary to
2 carry out the repeal made by subsection (a), including re-
3 moving any prohibition on transactions or payments to
4 which subsection (a)(1) of section 211 of the Department
5 of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
6 1999 applied.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY OF COURTS.**

8 United States courts shall have the authority to rec-
9 ognize, enforce, or otherwise validate an assertion of rights
10 in any mark or trade name based on common law rights
11 or registration or under any applicable provision of law
12 or any applicable treaty to which the United States is a
13 party.

14 **SEC. 5. PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES INTELLECTUAL**
15 **PROPERTY RIGHTS.**

16 (a) ESTIMATES OF BARRIERS TO MARKET ACCESS.—
17 For purposes of preparing the report required by section
18 181 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2241) for cal-
19 endar year 2005, the United States Trade Representative
20 shall examine the policies and practices of Cuba with re-
21 spect to protecting and enforcing intellectual property
22 rights.

23 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES THAT DENY
24 ADEQUATE PROTECTION, OR MARKET ACCESS, FOR IN-
25 TELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.—For purposes of meet-

1 ing the requirements of section 182 of the Trade Act of
2 1974 (22 U.S.C. 2242) with respect to the report required
3 by section 181 of such Act for calendar year 2005, the
4 United States Trade Representative shall give due consid-
5 eration to the findings of the Trade Representative pursu-
6 ant to subsection (a).

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