S 2773

Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Commerce
Introduced: Sep 21, 2021
Current Status: Held at the desk.
Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 7, 2022)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2773

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]
Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Sep 21, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 28, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 1, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 8697	Related bill	**Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Summary (as of Dec 6, 2022)

Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022

This bill modifies the responsibilities of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) satellite offices and addresses related issues.

The bill increases the discount on patent-related fees for small and micro entities. An entity that falsely claims such a discount shall be subject to a fine, in addition to any other existing penalties.

The bill also modifies the statutory purpose of PTO satellite offices to include (1) outreach activities targeting certain groups, such as low-income populations, veterans, and geographic groups that are underrepresented in patent filings; and (2) targeting patent examiners and administrative patent judges from economically, geographically, and demographically diverse backgrounds in the PTO's retention activities.

For each satellite office established after January 1, 2023, the PTO must consider the office's proximity to anchor institutions (e.g., hospitals primarily serving veterans and institutions of higher education) and certain groups, such as low-income populations, veterans, and geographic groups that are underrepresented in patent filings.

The PTO must establish (1) a satellite office in the southeastern United States within three years of this bill's enactment, (2) at least four community outreach offices throughout the United States within five years of this bill's enactment, and (3) a pilot program to help prospective first-time patent applicants assess the strengths and weaknesses of a potential patent application.

The PTO must also (1) conduct and report to Congress a study on patent pro bono programs, including whether such programs are sufficiently serving prospective and existing participants; and (2) use the study's findings to update such pro bono programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 7, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 7, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 7, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 6, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 6, 2022:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7006-7007)
- **Dec 1, 2022:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Dec 1, 2022:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Durbin with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 1, 2022:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 571.
- **Sep 21, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 21, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S6589)

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