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104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 587

To amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents on
biotechnological processes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD (for himself, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. BONO, Mr. CANADY of Florida, and Mr. HOKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to
patents on biotechnological processes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **BIOTECHNOLOGICAL PROCESS PATENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. CONDITIONS FOR PATENTABILITY; NONOBVIOUS**

5 **SUBJECT MATTER.**

6 Section 103 of title 35, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) by designating the first paragraph as sub-
9 section (a);

1 (2) by designating the second paragraph as
2 subsection (c); and

3 (3) by inserting after the first paragraph the
4 following:

5 “(b)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), and upon
6 timely election by the applicant for patent to proceed
7 under this subsection, a ‘biotechnological process’ using or
8 resulting in a composition of matter that is novel under
9 section 102 and nonobvious under subsection (a) of this
10 section shall be considered nonobvious if—

11 “(A) claims to the process and the composition
12 of matter are contained in either the same applica-
13 tion for patent or in separate applications having the
14 same effective filing date; and

15 “(B) the composition of matter, and the process
16 at the time it was invented, were owned by the same
17 person or subject to an obligation of assignment to
18 the same person.

19 “(2) A patent issued on a process under paragraph
20 (1)—

21 “(A) shall also contain the claims to the com-
22 position of matter used in or made by that process,
23 or

24 “(B) shall, if such composition of matter is
25 claimed in another patent, be set to expire on the

1 same date as such other patent, notwithstanding
2 section 154.

3 “(3) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term
4 ‘biotechnological process’ means—

5 “(A) a process of genetically altering or other-
6 wise inducing a single- or multi-celled organism to—

7 “(i) express an exogenous nucleotide se-
8 quence,

9 “(ii) inhibit, eliminate, augment, or alter
10 expression of an endogenous nucleotide se-
11 quence, or

12 “(iii) express a specific physiological char-
13 acteristic not naturally associated with said or-
14 ganism;

15 “(B) cell fusion procedures yielding a cell line
16 that expresses a specific protein, such as a
17 monoclonal antibody; and

18 “(C) a method of using a product produced by
19 a process defined by (A) or (B), or a combination
20 of (A) and (B).”.

21 **SEC. 102. PRESUMPTION OF VALIDITY; DEFENSES.**

22 Section 282 of title 35, United States Code, is
23 amended by inserting after the second sentence of the first
24 paragraph the following: “Notwithstanding the preceding
25 sentence, if a claim to a composition of matter is held in-

1 valid and that claim was the basis of a determination of
2 nonobviousness under section 103(b)(1), the process shall
3 no longer be considered nonobvious solely on the basis of
4 section 103(b)(1).”.

5 **SEC. 103. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 The amendments made by section 101 shall apply to
7 any application for patent filed on or after the date of
8 enactment of this Act and to any application for patent
9 pending on such date of enactment, including (in either
10 case) an application for the reissuance of a patent.

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