

92^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 645

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 1971

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

To provide relief in patent and trademark cases affected by the emergency situation in the United States Postal Service which began on March 18, 1970.

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. (a) A patent or trademark application shall
4 be considered as having been filed in the United States
5 Patent Office on the date that it would have been received
6 by the Patent Office except for the delay caused by the
7 emergency situation affecting the postal service which began
8 on March 18, 1970, and ended on or about March 30, 1970,
9 if a claim is made for the benefit of an earlier date in accord-
10 ance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Patents

1 issued with earlier filing dates afforded by this section shall
2 not be effective as prior art under subsection 102 (e) of title
3 35 of the United States Code as of such earlier filing dates.

4 (b) No patent or trademark application, patent, or
5 trademark registration shall be entitled to an earlier filing
6 date under this section unless a verified statement by the
7 applicant or owner of record claiming the filing date to
8 which the application is believed to be entitled is filed in
9 the Patent Office within six months after enactment of this
10 Act. Such statement shall be maintained in the file of the
11 application in the Patent Office and shall be referred to in
12 the patent or trademark registration when practicable.

13 (c) When a statement filed under subsection (b) of
14 this section appears unreasonable or defective on its face,
15 or when the filing date of the patent or trademark applica-
16 tion, patent, or trademark registration is called into question
17 or is material in any inter partes proceeding in the Patent
18 Office or any proceeding in the courts, the applicant or owner
19 of such application, patent, or trademark registration may
20 be required to present evidence establishing the filing date
21 to which the application is entitled. The filing date to which
22 the application is entitled shall be determined on the basis
23 of such evidence and any evidence introduced by an opposing
24 party. The evidence shall be presented as directed by the

1 Commissioner of Patents in proceedings in the Patent Office
2 or as directed by the courts in proceedings in the courts.

3 SEC. 2. (a) Except for the filing of a patent or trade-
4 mark application, if any action is taken or any fee is paid in
5 the United States Patent Office later than the end of a time
6 period specified in the statutes set forth in subsection (b)
7 of this section for taking such action or paying such fee,
8 and no provision exists in law for excusing such delay, the
9 delay may be excused if it is determined that it was caused
10 by the emergency situation affecting postal service which
11 began on March 18, 1970 and ended on or about March 30,
12 1970. Relief under this section must be requested by a veri-
13 fied statement filed in the Patent Office by the patent or
14 trademark applicant or owner within six months after enact-
15 ment of this Act.

16 (b) This section is applicable to title 35, United States
17 Code, "Patents"; the Trademark Act of 1946, ch. 540, 60
18 Stat. 427, as amended; the Atomic Energy Act of 1954,
19 Pub. L. 83-703, 68 Stat. 919, as amended; and the Na-
20 tional Aeronautics and Space Act, Pub. L. 85-568, 72 Stat.
21 426 (1958), as amended. In cases involving the Atomic
22 Energy Act of 1954 or the National Aeronautics and Space
23 Act, determinations of relief shall be made by a Board of

1 Patent Interferences. In other cases determinations shall be
2 made by the Commissioner of Patents.

3 SEC. 3. The Commissioner of Patents may establish
4 regulations for administering this Act.

Passed the Senate April 22, 1971.

Attest:

FRANCIS R. VALEO,

Secretary.

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