

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

OF NORTH CAROLINA

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 3 "Deceptive Patent Practices Reduction Act".
- 4 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
- 5 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 - Sec. 2. Definitions.
 - Sec. 3. Transparency of patent ownership.
 - Sec. 4. Customer stay.
 - Sec. 5. Small business education, outreach, and information access.
 - Sec. 6. Codification of the double-patenting doctrine for first-inventor-to-file patents.
 - Sec. 7. Technical corrections to the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.
 - Sec. 8. Reports.
 - Sec. 9. Effective date.

6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

- 7 In this Act:
- 8 (1) Director.—The term "Director" means
- 9 the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual
- 10 Property and Director of the United States Patent
- and Trademark Office.
- 12 (2) Office.—The term "Office" means the
- United States Patent and Trademark Office.

1	SEC. 3. TRANSPARENCY OF PATENT OWNERSHIP.
2	(a) Judicial Proceedings.—
3	(1) In General.—Section 281 of title 35,
4	United States Code, is amended—
5	(A) by striking "A patentee" and inserting
6	"(a) In General.—A patentee"; and
7	(B) by adding at the end the following:
8	"(b) INITIAL DISCLOSURE.—A patentee who has filed
9	a civil action under subsection (a) is required to disclose
10	to the court and to all adverse parties, any persons, asso-
11	ciations of persons, firms, partnerships, corporations (in-
12	cluding parent corporations), or other entities other than
13	the patentee itself known by the patentee to have—
14	"(1) a financial interest (of any kind) in the
15	subject matter in controversy or in a party to the
16	proceeding; or
17	"(2) any other kind of interest that could be
18	substantially affected by the outcome of the pro-
19	ceeding.
20	"(c) Enforcement.—The court may enforce the re-
21	quirement under subsection (b) upon a motion by an op-
22	posing party or sua sponte.
. 23	"(d) Definitions.—For purposes of this section, the
24	terms 'proceeding' and 'financial interest' have the mean-
25	ing given those terms in section 455(d) of title 28.".

1	(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
2	MENT.—Section 290 of title 35, United States Code,
3	is amended in the first sentence by inserting after
4	"inventor," the following: "any information that a
5	patentee has publicly disclosed under section
6	281(b),".
7	(b) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PRO-
8	CEEDINGS.—
9	(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 26 of title 35,
10	United States Code, is amended by adding at the
11	end the following:
12	"§ 263. Disclosure of information relating to patent
13	ownership
13 14	ownership "(a) Definitions.—In this section—
	-
14	"(a) Definitions.—In this section—
14 15	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers
14 15 16	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent
14 15 16 17	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been dis-
14 15 16 17 18	"(a) Definitions.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been dis- closed to the United States Patent and Trademark
14 15 16 17 18	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been dis- closed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with this section; and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	"(a) Definitions.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been dis- closed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with this section; and "(2) the term 'ultimate parent entity' has the
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"(a) Definitions.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been disclosed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with this section; and "(2) the term 'ultimate parent entity' has the meaning given the term in section 801.1(a)(3) of
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"(a) Definitions.—In this section— "(1) the term 'period of noncompliance' refers to a period of time during which the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been disclosed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with this section; and "(2) the term 'ultimate parent entity' has the meaning given the term in section 801.1(a)(3) of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-

- 4 1 that results in a change to the ultimate parent entity shall be recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office within 3 months of the assignment. "(c) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—A disclosure 4 under subsection (b) shall include the name of the assignee and the ultimate parent entity of the assignee. 7 "(d) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a party required to make a disclosure under subsection (b) fails to comply with such requirement, in a civil action in which that party asserts a claim for infringement of the patent, that party may not recover increased damages under section 284 or 12 attorney fees under section 285 with respect to infringing activities taking place during any period of noncompli-14 ance.". 15 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to any patent issued on or 16 17 after the date of enactment of this Act. (3) Conforming amendment.—The table of 18 sections for chapter 26 of title 35, United States 19 20 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following 21 new item:
 - "263. Disclosure of information relating to patent ownership.".
- SEC. 4. CUSTOMER STAY.
- 23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United
- States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
- 25 lowing new section:

1	"§ 299A. Customer stay
2	"(a) Definitions.—In this section—
3	"(1) the term 'covered customer' means a party
4	accused of infringing a patent or patents in dispute
5	based on a covered product or process;
6	"(2) the term 'covered manufacturer' means a
7	person who manufactures or supplies, or causes the
8	manufacture or supply of, a covered product or proc-
9	ess, or a relevant part thereof; and
10	"(3) the term 'covered product or process'
11	means a component, product, process, system, serv-
12	ice, method, or a relevant part thereof, that—
13	"(A) is alleged to infringe the patent or
14	patents in dispute, or
15	"(B) implements a process alleged to in-
16	fringe the patent or patents in dispute.
17	"(b) MOTION FOR STAY.—In a civil action in which
18	a party asserts a claim for relief arising under any Act
19	of Congress relating to patents (other than an action that
20	includes a cause of action described in section 271(e) of
21	this title), the court shall grant a motion to stay at least
22	the portion of the action against a covered customer that
23	relates to infringement of a patent involving a covered
24	product or process if—
25	"(1) the covered manufacturer and the covered

customer consent in writing to the stay;

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1	"(2) the covered manufacturer is a party to the
2	action or a separate action involving the same patent
3	or patents relating to the same covered product or
4	process;
5	"(3) the covered customer agrees to be bound
6	under the principles of collateral estoppel by any
7	issues finally decided as to the covered manufacturer
8	in an action described in paragraph (2) that the cov-
9	ered customer has in common with the covered man-
10	ufacturer; and
11	"(4) the motion is filed after the first pleading
12	in the action but not later than the later of—
13	"(A) 120 days after service of the first
14	pleading in the action that specifically identifies
15	the covered product or process as a basis for
16	the alleged infringement of the patent by the
17	covered customer, and specifically identifies how
18	the covered product or process is alleged to in-
19	fringe the patent; or
20	"(B) the date on which the first scheduling
21	order in the case is entered.
22	"(c) APPLICABILITY.—A stay issued under sub-
23	section (b) shall apply only to those asserted patents and
24	products, systems, methods, or components accused of in-
25	fringement in the action.

1	"(d) Vacating Stay.—
2	"(1) IN GENERAL.—A stay entered under this
3	section may be vacated upon grant of a motion
4	based on a showing that—
5	"(A) the action involving the covered man-
6	ufacturer will not resolve a major issue in suit
7	against the covered customer; or
8	"(B) the stay unreasonably prejudices or
9	would be manifestly unjust to the party seeking
10	to vacate the stay.
11	"(2) SEPARATE ACTIONS.—In the case of a stay
12	entered under this section based on the participation
13	of the covered manufacturer in a separate action de-
14	scribed in subsection (b)(2), a motion under para-
15	graph (1) may only be granted if the court in such
16	separate action determines that the showing re-
17	quired under paragraph (1) has been made.
18	"(e) Waiver of Estoppel Effect.—If, following
19	the grant of a motion to stay under this section, the cov-
20	ered manufacturer in an action described in subsection
21	(b)(2)—
22	"(1) seeks or consents to entry of a consent
23	judgment involving one or more of the common
24	issues that gave rise to the stay; or

1	"(2) fails to prosecute, to a final, non-appeal-
2	able judgment, a final decision as to one or more of
3	the common issues that gave rise to the stay,
4	the court may, upon motion, determine that such consent
5	judgment or unappealed final decision shall not be binding
6	on the covered customer with respect to one or more of
7	such common issues based on a showing that such an out-
8	come would unreasonably prejudice or be manifestly un-
9	just to the covered customer in light of the circumstances
10	of the case.
11	"(f) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-
12	tion shall be construed to limit the ability of a court to
13	grant, expand, or modify any stay granted pursuant to
14	this section, or grant any motion to intervene, if otherwise
15	permitted by law.".
16	(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of sec-
17	tions for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is
18	amended by adding at the end the following new item:
	"299A. Customer stay.".
19	SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND IN-
20	FORMATION ACCESS.
21	(a) SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION AND OUT-
22	REACH.—
23	(1) Resources for small business.—Using
24	existing resources, the Director shall develop edu-

1	cational resources for small businesses to address
2	concerns arising from patent infringement.
3	(2) Small business patent ombudsman.—
4	The Patent Ombudsman Program established under
5	section 28 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act
6	(35 U.S.C. 2 note) shall coordinate with the existing
7	small business outreach programs of the Office to
8	provide education and awareness on abusive patent
9	litigation practices.
10	(b) Improving Information Transparency for
11	SMALL BUSINESS AND THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
12	Trademark Office Users.—
13	(1) Web site.—Using existing resources, the
14	Director shall create a user-friendly section on the
15	official Web site of the Office to notify the public
16	when a patent case is brought in Federal court and
17	with respect to each patent at issue in such case, the
18	Director shall include—
19	(A) information disclosed pursuant to sec-
20	tion 290 of title 35, United States Code, as
21	amended by section 4(a)(2) of this Act; and
22	(B) any information the Director deter-
23	mines to be relevant.
24	(2) FORMAT.—In order to promote accessibility
25	for the public the information described in para-

1	graph (1) shall be searchable by patent number, pat-
2	ent art area, and entity.
3	SEC. 6. CODIFICATION OF THE DOUBLE-PATENTING DOC-
4	TRINE FOR FIRST-INVENTOR-TO-FILE PAT-
5	ENTS.
6	(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 10 of title 35, United
7	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8	lowing new section:
9	"§ 106. Prior art in cases of double patenting
10	"A claimed invention of a patent issued under section
11	151 (referred to in this section as the 'first patent') that
12	is not prior art to a claimed invention of another patent
13	(referred to in this section as the 'second patent') shall
14	be considered prior art to the claimed invention of the sec-
15	ond patent for the purpose of determining the nonobvious-
16	ness of the claimed invention of the second patent under
17	section 103 if—
18	"(1) the claimed invention of the first patent
19	was effectively filed under section 102(d) on or be-
20	fore the effective filing date of the claimed invention
21	of the second patent;
22	"(2) either—
23	"(A) the first patent and the second patent
24	name the same inventor; or

1	"(B) the claimed invention of the first pat-
2	ent would constitute prior art to the claimed in-
3	vention of the second patent under section
4	102(a)(2) if an exception under section
5	102(b)(2) were deemed to be inapplicable and
6	the claimed invention of the first patent was, or
7	were deemed to be, effectively filed under sec-
8	tion 102(d) before the effective filing date of
9	the claimed invention of the second patent; and
10	"(3) the patentee of the second patent has not
11	disclaimed the rights to enforce the second patent
12	independently from, and beyond the statutory term
13	of, the first patent.".
14	(b) REGULATIONS.—The Director shall promulgate
15	regulations setting forth the form and content of any dis-
16	claimer required for a patent to be issued in compliance
17	with section 106 of title 35, United States Code, as added
18	by subsection (a). Such regulations shall apply to any dis-
19	claimer filed after a patent has issued. A disclaimer, when
20	filed, shall be considered for the purpose of determining
21	the validity of the patent under section 106 of title 35,
22	United States Code.
23	(c) Conforming Amendment.—The table of sec-
24	tions for chapter 10 of title 35, United States Code, is
25	amended by adding at the end the following new item:

[&]quot;106. Prior art in cases of double patenting.".

1	(d) Exclusive Rule.—A patent subject to section
2	106 of title 35, United States Code, as added by sub-
3	section (a), shall not be held invalid on any nonstatutory,
4	double-patenting ground.
5	(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6	this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
7	of this Act and shall apply to a patent or patent applica-
8	tion only if both the first and second patents described
9	in section 106 of title 35, United States Code, as added
10	by subsection (a), are patents or patent applications that
11	are described in section 3(n)(1) of the Leahy-Smith Amer-
12	ica Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 100 note).
13	SEC. 7. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE LEAHY-SMITH
14	AMERICA INVENTS ACT.
15	(a) Technical Corrections.—
16	(1) Inventor's oath or declaration.—
17	(A) AMENDMENT.—Section 115(g)(1) of
18	title 35, United States Code, is amended—
10	
19	(i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20	(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "claims the benefit"
20 21	graph (A), by striking "claims the benefit"
20	graph (A), by striking "claims the benefit" and inserting "is entitled, as to each inven-
202122	graph (A), by striking "claims the benefit" and inserting "is entitled, as to each invention claimed in the application, to the ben-

1	(a) was executed by the individual and was
2	filed in connection with the earlier-filed ap-
3	plication" and inserting the following: "ex-
4	ecuted by or on behalf of the individual
5	was filed in connection with the earlier-
6	filed application and meets the require-
7	ments of this section as effective on the
8	date such oath or declaration was filed".
9	(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment
10	made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as
11	if included in the amendment made by section
12	4(a)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents
13	Act (Public Law 112–29; 125 Stat. 293).
14	(2) Novelty.—
15	(A) AMENDMENT.—Section 102(b)(1)(A)
16	of title 35, United States Code, is amended by
17	striking "the inventor or joint inventor or by
18	another" and inserting "the inventor or a joint
19	inventor or another".
20	(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment
21	made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as
22	if included in the amendment made by section
23	3(b)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents
24	Act (Public Law 112–29; 125 Stat. 285).
25	(3) Assignee filers.—

1	(A) BENEFIT OF EARLIER FILING DATE;
2	RIGHT OF PRIORITY.—Section 119(e)(1) of title
3	35, United States Code, is amended, in the first
4	sentence, by striking "by an inventor or inven-
5	tors named" and inserting "that names the in-
6	ventor or a joint inventor".
7	(B) BENEFIT OF EARLIER FILING DATE IN
8	THE UNITED STATES.—Section 120 of title 35,
9	United States Code, is amended, in the first
10	sentence, by striking "names an inventor or
11	joint inventor" and inserting "names the inven-
12	tor or a joint inventor".
13	(C) Effective date.—The amendments
14	made by this paragraph shall take effect on the
15	date of the enactment of this Act and shall
16	apply to any patent application, and any patent
17	issuing from such application, that is filed on or
18	after September 16, 2012.
19	(4) Derived patents.—
20	(A) AMENDMENT.—Section 291(b) of title
21	35, United States Code, is amended by striking
22	"or joint inventor" and inserting "or a joint in-
23	ventor".
24	(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment
25	made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as

1	if included in the amendment made by section
2	3(h)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents
3	Act (Public Law 112–29; 125 Stat. 288).
4	(5) Specification.—Notwithstanding section
5	4(e) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Pub-
6	lic Law 112–29; 125 Stat. 297), the amendments
7	made by subsections (c) and (d) of section 4 of such
8	Act shall apply to any proceeding or matter, that is
9	pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the en-
10	actment of this Act.
11	(6) Patent owner response.—
12	(A) CONDUCT OF INTER PARTES RE-
13	VIEW.—Section 316(a)(8) of title 35, United
14	States Code, is amended by striking "the peti-
15	tion under section 313" and inserting "the peti-
16	tion under section 311".
17	(B) CONDUCT OF POST-GRANT REVIEW.—
1,8	Section 326(a)(8) of title 35, United States
19	Code, is amended by striking "the petition
20	under section 323" and inserting "the petition
21	under section 321".
22	(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
23	made by this paragraph shall take effect on the
24	date of the enactment of this Act.

1	(7) Time limit for commencing misconduct
2	PROCEEDINGS.—
3	(A) AMENDMENT.—The fourth sentence of
4	section 32 of title 35, United States Code, is
5	amended by striking "1 year" and inserting "2
6	years".
7	(B) Effective date.—The amendment
8	made by this paragraph shall apply to any ac-
9	tion in which the Office files a complaint on or
10	after the date of enactment of this Act.
11	(b) Post-grant Review Amendment.—Section
12	325(e)(2) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by
13	striking "or reasonably could have raised".
14	(c) Clarification of Jurisdiction.—Section 1338
15	of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at
16	the end the following:
17	"(d) For purposes of this section, section 1454, and
18	section 1295(a), a claim of legal malpractice that nec-
19	essarily raises a disputed question of patent law shall be
20	deemed to arise under an Act of Congress relating to pat-
21	ents.".
22	SEC. 8. REPORTS.
23	(a) Study on Secondary Market Oversight for
24	PATENT TRANSACTIONS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY
25	AND ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES.—

1	(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director, in con-
2	sultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-
3	retary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the Securi-
4	ties and Exchange Commission, the heads of other
5	relevant agencies, and interested parties, shall, using
6	existing resources of the Office, conduct a study—
7	(A) to develop legislative recommendations
8	to ensure greater transparency and account-
9	ability in patent transactions occurring on the
10	secondary market;
11	(B) to examine the economic impact that
12	the patent secondary market has on the United
13	States;
14	(C) to examine licensing and other over-
15	sight requirements that may be placed on the
16	patent secondary market, including on the par-
17	ticipants in such markets, to ensure that the
18	market is a level playing field and that brokers
19	in the market have the requisite expertise and
20	adhere to ethical business practices; and
21	(D) to examine the requirements placed on
22	other markets.
23	(2) Submission of Study.—Not later than 18
24	months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
25	the Director shall submit a report to the Committee

1	on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
2	and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate
3	on the findings and recommendations of the Director
4	from the study required under paragraph (1).
5	(b) Study on Patents Owned by the United
6	STATES GOVERNMENT.—
7	(1) Study required.—The Director, in con-
8	sultation with the heads of relevant agencies and in-
9	terested parties, shall, using existing resources of the
10	Office, conduct a study on patents owned by the
11	United States Government that—
12	(A) examines how such patents are li-
13	censed and sold, with reference to any litigation
14	relating to the licensing or sale of such patents;
15	(B) provides legislative and administrative
16	recommendations on whether there should be
17	restrictions placed on patents acquired from the
18	United States Government;
19	(C) examines whether or not each relevant
20	agency maintains adequate records on the pat-
21	ents owned by such agency, specifically whether
22	such agency addresses licensing, assignment,
23	and Government grants for technology related
24	to such patents; and

1	(D) provides recommendations to ensure	
2	that each relevant agency has an adequate	
3	point of contact that is responsible for man-	
4	aging the patent portfolio of the agency.	
5	(2) Report on study.—Not later than 9	
6	months after the date of completion of the study re	
7	quired by subsection (a)(1), the Director shall sub-	
8	mit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Hous	
9	of Representatives and the Committee on the Judici-	
10	ary of the Senate a report on the findings and rec-	
11	ommendations of the Director from the study re-	
12	quired under paragraph (1).	
13	(e) STUDY ON PATENT QUALITY AND ACCESS TO	
14	THE BEST INFORMATION DURING EXAMINATION.—	
15	(1) GAO STUDY.—The Comptroller General of	
16	the United States shall conduct a study on patent	
17	examination at the Office and the technologies avail-	
18	able to improve examination and improve patent	
19	quality.	
20	(2) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study re-	
21	quired under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-	
22	lowing:	
23	(A) An examination of patent quality at	
24	the Office.	

1	(B) An examination of ways to improve
2	quality, specifically through technology, that
3	shall include examining best practices at foreign
4	patent offices and the use of existing off-the-
5	shelf technologies to improve patent examina-
6	tion.
7	(C) A description of how patents are clas-
8	sified.
9	(D) An examination of procedures in place
10	to prevent double patenting through filing by
11	applicants in multiple art areas.
12	(E) An examination of the types of off-the-
13	shelf prior art databases and search software
14	used by foreign patent offices and governments,
15	particularly in Europe and Asia, and whether
16	those databases and search tools could be used
17	by the Office to improve patent examination.
18	(F) An examination of any other areas the
19	Comptroller General determines to be relevant.
20	(3) Report to congress.—Not later than 6
21	months after the date of the completion of the study
22	required by subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller Gen-
23	eral shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
24	of the House of Representatives and the Committee
25	on the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the find-

1	ings and recommendations from the study required
2	by this subsection, including recommendations for
3	any changes to laws and regulations that will im-
4	prove the examination of patent applications and
5	patent quality.
6	(d) STUDY ON PATENT SMALL CLAIMS COURT.—
7	(1) Study required.—
8	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
9	Administrative Office of the United States
10	Courts, in consultation with the Director of the
11	Federal Judicial Center, shall, using existing
12	resources, conduct a study to examine the idea
13	of developing a pilot program for patent small
14	claims courts in certain judicial districts within
15	the existing patent pilot program mandated by
16	Public Law 111–349 (28 U.S.C. 137 note).
17	(B) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study
18	conducted under subparagraph (A) shall exam-
19	ine—
20	(i) the number and qualifications for
21	judges that could serve on the courts de-
22	scribed in subparagraph (A);
23	(ii) how the courts described in sub-
24	paragraph (A) would be designated and
25	the necessary criteria;

1	(iii) the costs that would be incurred	
2	for establishing, maintaining and operating	
3	the pilot program described in subpara-	
4	graph (A); and	
5	(iv) the steps that would be taken t	
6	ensure that the pilot small claims court	
7	are not misused for abusive patent litiga-	
8	tion.	
9	(2) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the	
10	date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of	
11	the Administrative Office of the United States	
12	Courts shall submit a report to the Committee on	
13	the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and	
14	the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate on the	
15	findings and recommendations from the study re-	
16	quired under paragraph (1).	
17	(e) Study on Bad-faith Demand Letters.—	
18	(1) Study.—The Intellectual Property Enforce-	
19	ment Coordinator, in consultation with the Director,	
20	shall conduct a study of the practice by a person, in	
21	connection with the assertion of a United States pat-	
22	ent, of sending written communications that state	
23	that the intended recipients or any affiliated persons	
24	of such recipients are infringing or have infringed	

1	the patent and bear liability or owe compensation to
2	another, whereby—
3	(A) the communications falsely threaten
4	that administrative or judicial relief will be
5	sought if compensation is not paid or the in-
6	fringement issue is not otherwise resolved;
7	(B) the assertions contained in the commu-
8	nications lack a reasonable basis in fact or law,
9	including, for example, because—
10	(i) the person asserting the patent is
11	not a person, or does not represent a per-
12	son, with the current right to license the
13	patent to, or to enforce the patent against,
14	the intended recipients or any such affili-
15	ated persons; or
16	(ii) the communications seek com-
17	pensation on account of activities under-
18	taken after the patent has expired; or
19	(C) the content of the written communica-
20	tions is likely to materially mislead a reasonable
21	recipient, including, for example, because the
22	content fails to include such facts reasonably
23	necessary to inform the recipient of—
24	(i) the identity of the person asserting
25	a right to license the patent to, or enforce

1	the patent against, the intended recipient
2	or any affiliated person of the recipient;
3	(ii) the patent issued by the United
4	States Patent and Trademark Office al-
5	leged to have been infringed; and
6	(iii) the reasons for the assertion that
7	the patent may be or may have been in-
8	fringed.
9	(2) Report to congress.—Not later than 18
0	months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
11	the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator
12	shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of
13	the House of Representatives and the Committee on
14	the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the study
15	conducted under paragraph (1), including rec-
16	ommendations for any changes to laws and regula-
17	tions that will deter any abuses found in the practice
18	described in paragraph (1).
19	SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.
20	Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the provi-
21	sions of this Act shall take effect on the date of the enact-
22	ment of this Act, and shall apply to any patent issued
23	or any action filed, on or after that date.

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Hugh N. Halpern, Staff Director (202) 225-9191 www_rules_house_gov



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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MILES M. LACKEY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

MINORITY OFFICE H-152, THE CAPITOL (202) 225-9091

AMENDMENT SUBMISSION FORM

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Bill Number: HR 3309
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