

U.S. H.R. 1249 PASSES

The U.S. Senate passed yesterday the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) by a vote of 89 to 9. It should be signed by President Obama next week. This bill aims to streamline the patent process, reduce costs in the litigation of patents and give the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the money it needs to process patents in a timely manner. The U.S. Patent system would then convert from a first-to-invent system to a first-to-file system, which would put the U.S. in line with other industrialized countries. Many provisions of this bill must be enacted within a year's time frame. The United States Patent & Trademark Office will need in the future to undertake a change in rulemaking to implement this act.

More detailed information will be provided in the future.