



Update: House Subcommittee to Consider First-to-File Patent Reform

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On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, a U.S. House subcommittee will consider the patent reform bill titled the “America Invents Act.” The Senate passed a bill by the same name on March 8, 2011, by a vote of 95-5. While the House version of the bill has not yet been made public, Practising Law Institute [reports](#) that the draft being circulated does contain language that would change the U.S. to a “first-to-file” patent system, which would parallel the Senate bill. The hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet.

Both the Chairman of the House Subcommittee, Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA6), and the Vice-Chairman, Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC6), have had some experience with patent reform in the past, as they co-sponsored the ultimately unsuccessful Patent Reform Act of 2005, [according](#) to Dennis Crouch of the Patently-O blog. The 2005 bill contained a provision that would have changed the U.S. to a “first-to-file” patent system as well. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX21), the sponsor of the 2005 bill, is the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

More information regarding the subcommittee’s hearing on the America Invents Act can be found [here](#). For an explanation of the “first-to-file” versus the “first-to-invent” system, see our [previous posts](#). The [summary](#), [full text](#), and [present status](#), of the Senate bill can be found on the Library of Congress’s legislative information website, THOMAS.

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