



Bayh-Voinovich Title IV Summary

The *Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act* treats intellectual property (IP) theft with the seriousness it demands, offering a focused, aggressive solution to stop domestic and international counterfeiting. The legislation, authored by Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and George Voinovich (R-OH), would safeguard the economic health of the United States, preserve jobs and protect the health and safety of American citizens by increasing the coordination among agencies charged with IP protection and making permanent many of the president's current initiatives to combat IP theft.

The Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act would:

Create an Organized Force:

To create a more organized force, the legislation would establish an Intellectual Property Enforcement Network (IPEN) to replace the looser, interagency approach currently responsible for coordinating IP enforcement efforts. Under the proposed legislation, federal agencies would coordinate and share information to aid each other in identifying, tracking, arresting and prosecuting IP criminals. Additionally, formal mechanisms would be established for working with state and local law enforcement and the private sector, artists, entertainers, workers and the organizations that represent them.

Increase Enforcement Team Oversight:

In recognition of the role of Congress in the protection of IP, the *Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act* requires that IP coordination and enforcement agencies work together to develop a strategic plan, and that appropriate metrics are developed to measure the success of these efforts. Congressional involvement is important to make certain that adequate resources are provided to address this major competitive issue.

Strengthen International Enforcement:

To encourage a global effort against IP theft, the legislation calls for the United States to begin setting high standards of enforcement with foreign governments, with the goal of establishing an international task force made up of like-minded countries to track, identify and stop IP thieves. The task force would be modeled on a similar international team that fights money laundering and other black-market crimes. The criteria for admission into the task force would include having effective laws preventing IP theft and demonstrating a track record of enforcing those laws. The president would be encouraged to make cooperation with the global task force a priority among U.S. trading partners.

Develop a Strategic Plan:

To bolster current efforts and provide needed direction, the White House and the president's coordinator would be responsible for drafting a Strategic Plan identifying the objectives of the IPEN, and the methodologies for achieving those objectives. Included would be a detailed explanation showing how relevant agencies are working together to identify, track, arrest and prosecute IP criminals. The Strategic Plan would also provide an explanation of the resources needed to accomplish the objectives and an estimation of the cost of those resources. Lastly, the Strategic Plan would detail performance measures to monitor results.