

## About the Bayh-Dole Act

Passed in 1980, the bipartisan Bayh-Dole Act empowered universities, small businesses, and national laboratories to patent and license federally-funded inventions, driving over four decades of American innovation.

The *Economist Technology Quarterly* heralded the Bayh-Dole Act as “the most inspired piece of legislation to be enacted in America over the past half-century... More than anything, this single policy measure helped to reverse America’s precipitous slide into industrial irrelevancy.”

Bayh-Dole  
COALITION

## Innovations made possible thanks to the Bayh-Dole Act include:

- Google
- High-definition television
- Organ preservation solutions
- Epivir (AIDS therapy)
- Firefighting drones
- Blood test to detect brain injuries
- Nicotine patch
- Non-lethal pest control
- Paper-based diagnostic chip

*Preserving the integrity of the Bayh-Dole Act is critical to advancing U.S. leadership in innovation and safeguarding American economic growth and security.*

## Impact of the Bayh-Dole Act and Academic Technology Transfer<sup>1</sup>

Since 1996...



**6.5 million**  
jobs supported



**\$1.9 trillion**  
contributed to U.S. gross industrial output



**19,000+**  
startups created



**580,000+**  
inventions disclosed to research institutions

## The Bayh-Dole Act has benefitted the U.S. economy, entrepreneurship, and innovation for decades by...

- **Supporting Local Economies:** Bayh-Dole allows universities to license federally-funded inventions to private companies, reinvesting royalties in research to drive local and national economic growth.<sup>2</sup>
- **Bringing American Products to Market:** In 2024 alone, university tech transfer offices executed over 9,507 licenses.<sup>3</sup> Before Bayh-Dole, federal agencies had licensed less than 5% of their 28,000 patents by 1980.<sup>4</sup>
- **Maintaining U.S. Competitiveness Abroad:** With China outpacing the United States in 37 of 44 key technologies, Bayh-Dole is vital to asserting our global leadership by bolstering innovation, manufacturing, and economic prosperity.<sup>5</sup>
- **Supporting Small Businesses:** Startups and small companies hold nearly 70% of university licenses and the tech transfer system helped launch over 950 startups in 2024.<sup>6</sup>

[1] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/2024-US-AUTM-Infographic.pdf>

[2] <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12701#:~:text=Colleges%20and%20universities%20may%20also,formal%20process%20of%20technology%20transfer.>

[3] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/2024-US-AUTM-Infographic.pdf>

[4] <https://www.gao.gov/assets/rced-98-126.pdf#page=5>

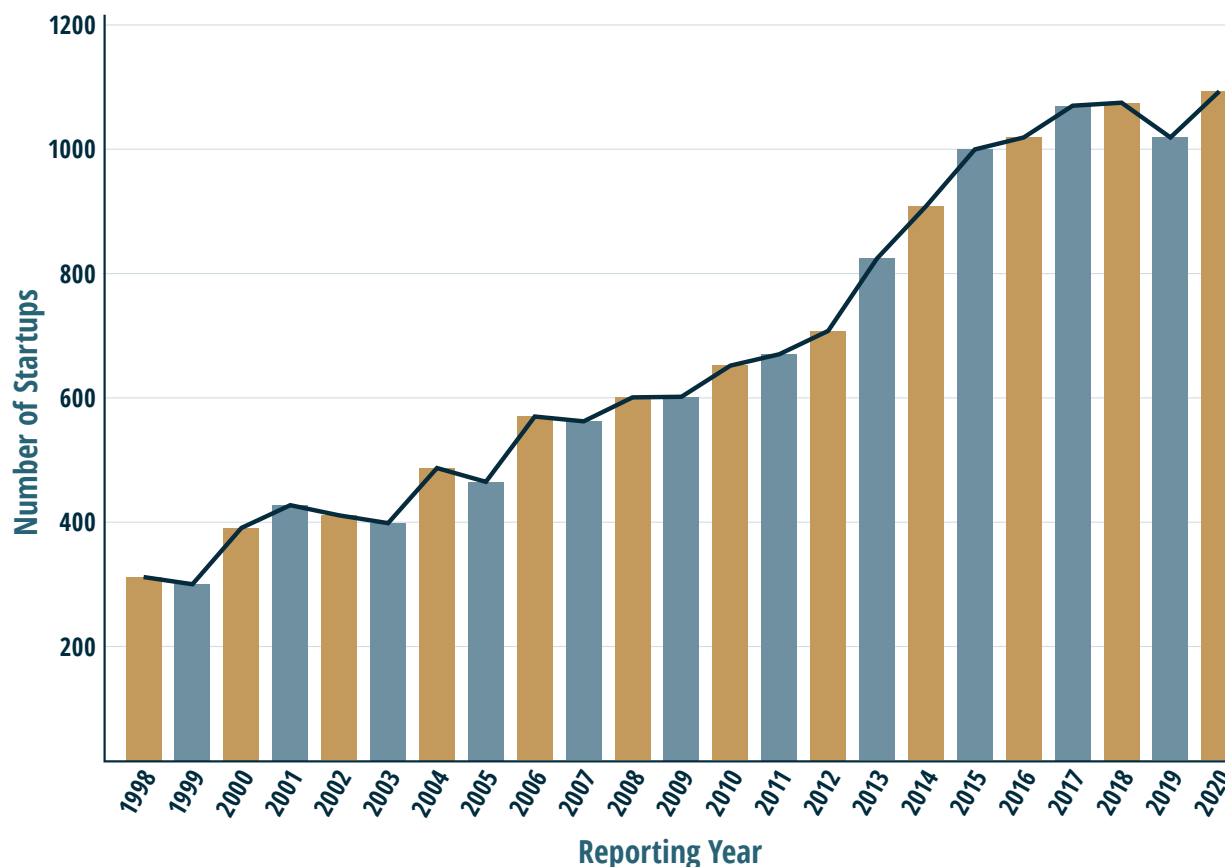
[5] <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/critical-technology-tracker#:~:text=China%E2%80%99s%20global%20lead%20extends%20to%2037%20out%20of%2044%20technologies>

[6] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/2024-US-AUTM-Infographic.pdf>

## A Startup Explosion

One of America's greatest strengths is forming startup companies that drive economic growth and innovation. The Bayh-Dole Act empowered technology transfer nationwide — moving an early-stage idea from the university lab to market as a commercial product — which led to an explosion of startups forming around federally-funded inventions. Under our system, the private sector assumes the expense and risk of development, which often fails despite good faith efforts. **But because of Bayh-Dole, we commercialize an average of two new products and form between two and three new startups based on academic inventions every day of the year.**<sup>7</sup> No other country comes close to that success rate.

### Number of Startups Formed Around University Inventions



*Scan to learn more about the Coalition and join the effort to defend the landmark and bipartisan Bayh-Dole Act.*



## About the Bayh-Dole Coalition

A 501(c)(4), the Bayh-Dole Coalition is a group of innovation-oriented organizations and individuals committed to celebrating and protecting the Bayh-Dole Act, as well as informing policymakers and the public of its many benefits.

The Bayh-Dole Coalition has **more than 300 members** that represent the interests of universities, private companies, venture capitalists, and researchers across all economic sectors.

[7] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/2024-US-AUTM-Infographic.pdf>