

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5056

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2014

Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. PETERS of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Research and Develop-
5 ment Efficiency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

7 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) high and increasing administrative burdens
10 and costs in Federal research administration, par-

1 particularly in the higher education sector where most
2 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-
3 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-
4 search;

5 (2) progress has been made over the last decade
6 in streamlining the pre-award grant application
7 process through Grants.gov, the Federal Govern-
8 ment's website portal;

9 (3) post-award administrative costs have grown
10 as Federal research agencies have continued to im-
11 pose agency-unique compliance and reporting re-
12 quirements on researchers and research institutions;

13 (4) facilities and administration costs at re-
14 search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total
15 value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated
16 that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annu-
17 ally in federally funded research is consumed by pa-
18 perwork and other administrative processes required
19 by Federal agencies; and

20 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to
21 American competitiveness that administrative costs
22 of federally funded research be streamlined so that
23 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-
24 rect research activities.

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
2 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working
3 group under the authority of the National Science and
4 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management
5 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for
6 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-
7 search universities and making recommendations on how
8 to—

9 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-
10 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-
11 ments; and

12 (2) minimize the regulatory burden on United
13 States institutions of higher education performing
14 federally funded research while maintaining account-
15 ability for Federal tax dollars.

16 (c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the re-
17 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group
18 shall take into account input and recommendations from
19 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and
20 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher
21 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,
22 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small
23 businesses, federally funded research and development
24 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,

1 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-
2 entific research.

3 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
5 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on
6 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been
9 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working
10 group established under subsection (b).

○