

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5544

To increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. COLLINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation.

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 “Low-Dose Radiation
5 Research Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department
8 of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a research pro-
9 gram on low dose radiation. The purpose of the program

1 is to enhance the scientific understanding of and reduce
2 uncertainties associated with the effects of exposure to low
3 dose radiation in order to inform improved risk manage-
4 ment methods.

5 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an
7 agreement with the National Academies to conduct a
8 study assessing the current status and development of a
9 long-term strategy for low dose radiation research. Such
10 study shall be completed not later than 18 months after
11 the date of enactment of this Act. The study shall be con-
12 ducted in coordination with Federal agencies that perform
13 ionizing radiation effects research and shall leverage the
14 most current studies in this field. Such study shall—

15 (1) identify current scientific challenges for un-
16 derstanding the long-term effects of ionizing radi-
17 ation;

18 (2) assess the status of current low dose radi-
19 ation research in the United States and internation-
20 ally;

21 (3) formulate overall scientific goals for the fu-
22 ture of low-dose radiation research in the United
23 States;

24 (4) recommend a long-term strategic and
25 prioritized research agenda to address scientific re-

1 search goals for overcoming the identified scientific
2 challenges in coordination with other research ef-
3 forts;

4 (5) define the essential components of a re-
5 search program that would address this research
6 agenda within the universities and the National Lab-
7 oratories; and

8 (6) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of such
9 a program.

10 (c) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after
11 the completion of the study performed under subsection
12 (b) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver to the Committee
13 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
15 Resources of the Senate a 5-year research plan that re-
16 sponds to the study’s findings and recommendations and
17 identifies and prioritizes research needs.

18 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “low dose
19 radiation” means a radiation dose of less than 100
20 millisieverts.

21 (e) PROHIBITION ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.—Sec-
22 tion 977(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
23 16317(e)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(e) PROHIBITION ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.—In
2 carrying out the program under this section, the Secretary
3 shall not conduct biomedical research.”.

4 (f) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to
5 be appropriated under this section. This Act shall be car-
6 ried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law.

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