IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

AN ACT

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a low-dose radiation basic research program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle G of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 977 the following new section:

“SEC. 977A. LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a basic research program on low-dose radiation to—

“(1) enhance the scientific understanding of, and reduce uncertainties associated with, the effects of exposure to low-dose radiation; and

“(2) inform improved risk-assessment and risk-management methods with respect to such radiation.

“(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the program required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) formulate scientific goals for low-dose radiation basic research in the United States;

“(2) identify ongoing scientific challenges for understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radiation on biological systems;

“(3) develop a long-term strategic and prioritized basic research agenda to address such
scientific challenges in coordination with other research efforts;

“(4) identify and, to the extent possible, quantify, potential monetary and health-related benefits to Federal agencies, the general public, industry, research communities, and other users of information produced by such research program;

“(5) leverage the collective body of knowledge from existing low-dose radiation research; and

“(6) engage with other Federal agencies, research communities, and potential users of information produced under this section, including institutions concerning radiation research, medical physics, radiology, health physics, and emergency response.

“(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary, in coordination with the Physical Science Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council, shall—

“(1) support the directives under section 106 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 6601 note);

“(2) ensure that the Office of Science of the Department of Energy consults with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection
Agency, the Department of Defense, the Nuclear
Regulatory Commission, and the Department of
Homeland Security;

“(3) advise and assist the National Science and
Technology Council on policies and initiatives in ra-
diation biology, including enhancing scientific knowl-
edge of the effects of low-dose radiation on biological
systems to improve radiation risk-assessment and
risk-management methods; and

“(4) identify opportunities to stimulate inter-
national cooperation relating to low-dose radiation
and leverage research and knowledge from sources
outside of the United States.

“(d) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a 4-year
research plan that identifies and prioritizes basic research
needs relating to low-dose radiation. In developing such
plan, the Secretary shall incorporate the components de-
scribed in subsection (b).

“(e) DEFINITION OF LOW-DOSE RADIATION.—In
this section, the term ‘low-dose radiation’ means a radi-
ation dose of less than 100 millisieverts.
“(f) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to subject any research carried out by the Secretary for the program under this section to any limitations described in 977(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

“(g) Funding.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary is authorized to make available from funds provided to the Biological and Environmental Research Program—

“(1) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;
“(2) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;
“(3) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and
“(4) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of contents for subtitle G of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 977 the following:

“977A. Low-dose radiation research program.”.

SEC. 3. SPENDING LIMITATION.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be
carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

Passed the House of Representatives February 13, 2018.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS, 
Clerk.