

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7931

To direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish an interagency working group to coordinate Federal activities to advance research and development needed to address PFAS.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish an interagency working group to coordinate Federal activities to advance research and development needed to address PFAS.

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 “PFAS Interagency Re-
5 search Coordination Strategy Act” or the “PIRCS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY BODY ON RESEARCH RELATED TO**
2 **PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of
4 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the Na-
5 tional Science and Technology Council, shall establish an
6 interagency working group to coordinate Federal activities
7 to advance research and development needed to address
8 PFAS.

9 (b) AGENCY PARTICIPATION.—The interagency work-
10 ing group shall include a representative of each—

11 (1) the Environmental Protection Agency;

12 (2) the National Institute of Environmental
13 Health Sciences;

14 (3) the Agency for Toxic Substances and Dis-
15 ease Registry;

16 (4) the National Science Foundation;

17 (5) the Department of Defense;

18 (6) the National Institutes of Health;

19 (7) the National Institute of Standards and
20 Technology;

21 (8) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
22 ministration;

23 (9) the Department of the Interior;

24 (10) the Department of Transportation;

25 (11) the Department of Homeland Security;

1 (12) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
2 ministration;

3 (13) the National Toxicology Program;

4 (14) the Department of Agriculture;

5 (15) the Geological Survey;

6 (16) the Department of Commerce;

7 (17) the Department of Energy;

8 (18) the Office of Information and Regulatory
9 Affairs;

10 (19) the Office of Management and Budget;

11 and

12 (20) any such other Federal department or
13 agency as the President considers appropriate.

14 (c) CO-CHAIRS.—The interagency working group
15 shall be co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Science
16 and Technology Policy and a representative from one or
17 more agencies, selected by the Director of the Office of
18 Science and Technology Policy from the list of agencies
19 under subsection (b).

20 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP.—
21 The interagency working group established under sub-
22 section (a) shall—

23 (1) provide for interagency coordination of fed-
24 erally funded PFAS research and development; and

1 (2) not later than 12 months after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act and every 2 years subse-
3 quent, develop or update a strategic plan for Federal
4 support for PFAS research and development that—

5 (A) with respect to the fiscal year for
6 which such strategic plan is to be developed,
7 identifies, by agency, the federally funded
8 PFAS research and development, including the
9 nature and scope of such research and develop-
10 ment and the amount of funding associated
11 with such research and development for such
12 fiscal year;

13 (B) identifies scientific and technological
14 challenges that must be addressed to under-
15 stand and to significantly reduce the environ-
16 mental and human health impacts of PFAS and
17 to identify cost-effective—

18 (i) alternatives to PFAS that are de-
19 signed to be safer and more environ-
20 mentally friendly;

21 (ii) methods for removal of PFAS
22 from the environment; and

23 (iii) methods to safely destroy or de-
24 grade PFAS;

1 (C) establishes goals, priorities, and
2 metrics for federally funded PFAS research and
3 development that takes into account the
4 progress of the research and development iden-
5 tified in paragraph (A) and the challenges iden-
6 tified in paragraph (B); and

7 (D) develops an implementation plan for
8 Federal agencies.

9 (e) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategic plan
10 under subsection (d), the interagency working group shall
11 consult with States, Indian Tribes, territories, local gov-
12 ernments, appropriate industries, institutions of higher
13 education, and nongovernmental organizations with exper-
14 tise in PFAS research and development, treatment, man-
15 agement, and alternative development.

16 (f) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each fiscal year begin-
17 ning with fiscal year 2022, not later than 90 days after
18 submission of the President’s annual budget request for
19 such fiscal year, the interagency working group shall pre-
20 pare and submit to Congress a report that includes—

21 (1) a summary of federally funded PFAS re-
22 search and development for such fiscal year and the
23 preceding fiscal year, including a disaggregation of
24 spending for any agency that has funded PFAS re-
25 search; and

1 (2) a description of how the Federal agencies
2 under paragraph (1) are implementing the strategic
3 plan described in subsection (d).

4 (g) SUNSET.—The interagency working group estab-
5 lished under subsection (a) shall terminate 6 years after
6 the date on which such working group is established.

7 (h) PFAS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The
8 term “PFAS research and development” includes any re-
9 search or project that has the goal of accomplishing the
10 following:

11 (1) The removal of PFAS from the environ-
12 ment.

13 (2) The safe destruction or degradation of
14 PFAS.

15 (3) The development and deployment of safer
16 and more environmentally friendly alternative sub-
17 stances that are functionally similar to those made
18 with PFAS.

19 (4) The understanding of sources of environ-
20 mental PFAS contamination and pathways to expo-
21 sure for the public.

22 (5) The understanding of the toxicity of PFAS
23 to humans and animals.

- 1 (6) Any other research project or goal that the
- 2 Director determines appropriate.

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