

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8937

To amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2020

Ms. ESHOO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, 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 “National Civilian Med-  
5 als Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE AWARD.**

2 The Act entitled “An Act to establish a National  
3 Medal of Science to provide recognition for individuals who  
4 make outstanding contributions in the physical, biological,  
5 mathematical, engineering, behavioral, and social  
6 sciences.”, approved August 25, 1959 (42 U.S.C. 1881),  
7 is amended—

8 (1) in the title, by striking “engineering, behav-  
9 ioral, and social” and inserting “and engineering  
10 sciences”; and

11 (2) by amending section 2 to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 2. AWARD OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE.**

13 “(a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall  
14 award the National Medal of Science to an individual or  
15 a group who in the judgment of the President is deserving  
16 of special recognition by reason of outstanding contribu-  
17 tions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathe-  
18 matical, or engineering sciences on the basis of—

19 “(1) information and evidence the President de-  
20 termines appropriate; and

21 “(2) recommendations received from—

22 “(A) the President’s Committee on the Na-  
23 tional Medal of Science (or a successor of such  
24 committee);

25 “(B) the Director of the National Science  
26 Foundation;

1           “(C) the President of the National Acad-  
2           emy of Sciences;

3           “(D) the Director of the Office of Science  
4           and Technology Policy; and

5           “(E) the Director of the National Insti-  
6           tutes of Health.

7           “(b) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,  
8           the President shall award at least 1 medal, and the Presi-  
9           dent may not award more than 5 medals in any calendar  
10          year.

11          “(c) CITIZENSHIP.—

12           “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-  
13           dividual may be awarded the medal only if at the  
14           time the award is made such individual—

15           “(A) is a citizen or other national of the  
16           United States; or

17           “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the  
18           United States for permanent residency who—

19           “(i) has filed an application or peti-  
20           tion for naturalization in the manner pre-  
21           scribed by section 334 of the Immigration  
22           and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

23           “(ii) is eligible for naturalization.

1           “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may  
2 be awarded the medal only if such group is orga-  
3 nized or incorporated in the United States.

4           “(d) CEREMONIES.—

5           “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation  
6 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by  
7 the President, during the month of April of each cal-  
8 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President  
9 may determine proper.

10           “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-  
11 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-  
12 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the  
13 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under  
14 paragraph (1).

15           “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

16           “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-  
17 dent may not award the National Medal of Science  
18 posthumously.

19           “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-  
20 dent may not award the National Medal of Science  
21 to—

22           “(A) the Vice President, the head of an  
23 Executive department, or a Member of Con-  
24 gress; or

1           “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or  
2           daughter-in-law of an individual described in  
3           subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-  
4           ble common law.”.

5 **SEC. 3. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS AWARD.**

6           Section 13 of the National Foundation on the Arts  
7 and the Humanities Act Amendments of 1983 (20 U.S.C.  
8 955b) is amended—

9           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection  
10          (b)” and inserting “this section”;

11          (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
12          lows:

13          “(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The President shall  
14 award the National Medal of Arts, on the basis of rec-  
15 ommendations from the National Council on the Arts, to  
16 an individual or a group who in the judgment of the Presi-  
17 dent is deserving of special recognition by reason of out-  
18 standing contributions to the excellence, growth, support,  
19 and availability of the arts in the United States.”;

20          (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
21          section (g); and

22          (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
23          lowing:

24          “(c) **NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.**—Annually,  
25 the President shall award at least 1 National Medal of

1 Arts, and the President may not award more than 5 of  
2 such medals in any calendar year.

3 “(d) CITIZENSHIP.—

4 “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-  
5 dividual may be awarded the National Medal of Arts  
6 only if at the time the award is made such indi-  
7 vidual—

8 “(A) is a citizen or other national of the  
9 United States; or

10 “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the  
11 United States for permanent residency who—

12 “(i) has filed an application or peti-  
13 tion for naturalization in the manner pre-  
14 scribed by section 334 of the Immigration  
15 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

16 “(ii) is eligible to become a citizen of  
17 the United States.

18 “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may  
19 be awarded the National Medal of Arts only if such  
20 group is organized or incorporated in the United  
21 States.

22 “(e) CEREMONIES.—

23 “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation  
24 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by  
25 the President, during the month of October of each

1 calendar year, with such ceremonies as the President  
2 may determine proper.

3 “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-  
4 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-  
5 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the  
6 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under  
7 paragraph (1).

8 “(f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

9 “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-  
10 dent may not award the National Medal of Arts  
11 posthumously.

12 “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-  
13 dent may not award the National Medal of Arts to—

14 “(A) the Vice President, the head of an  
15 Executive department, or a Member of Con-  
16 gress; or

17 “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or  
18 daughter-in-law of an individual described in  
19 subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-  
20 ble common law.”.

21 **SEC. 4. THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**  
22 **MEDAL.**

23 Section 16 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-  
24 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711) is amended—

1           (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
2       lows:

3       “(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall  
4       award the National Technology and Innovation Medal to  
5       an individual or a group who in the judgment of the Presi-  
6       dent is deserving of special recognition by reason of out-  
7       standing contributions to the promotion of technology or  
8       technological manpower for the improvement of the eco-  
9       nomic, environmental, or social well-being of the United  
10      States on the basis of—

11           “(1) information and evidence the President de-  
12      termines appropriate; and

13           “(2) recommendations from—

14           “(A) the National Medal of Technology  
15      and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Com-  
16      mittee (or a successor of such committee);

17           “(B) the Director of the United States  
18      Patent and Trademark Office;

19           “(C) the Director of the Office of Science  
20      and Technology Policy;

21           “(D) the Director of the National Institute  
22      of Standards and Technology; and

23           “(E) the Director of the National Science  
24      Foundation.”;

25           (2) by striking subsection (c); and



1           (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,  
4 the President shall award at least 1 National Technology  
5 and Innovation Medal, and the President may not award  
6 more than 5 of such medals in any calendar year.

7           “(d) CITIZENSHIP.—

8           “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-  
9           dividual may be awarded the National Technology  
10          and Innovation Medal only if at the time the award  
11          is made such individual—

12                   “(A) is a citizen or other national of the  
13                   United States; or

14                   “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the  
15                   United States for permanent residency who—

16                           “(i) has filed an application or peti-  
17                           tion for naturalization in the manner pre-  
18                           scribed by section 334 of the Immigration  
19                           and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

20                           “(ii) is eligible to become a citizen of  
21                           the United States.

22           “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may  
23           be awarded the National Technology and Innovation  
24           Medal only if such group is organized or incor-  
25           porated in the United States.

1 “(e) CEREMONIES.—

2 “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation  
3 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by  
4 the President, during the month of April of each cal-  
5 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President  
6 may determine proper.

7 “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-  
8 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-  
9 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the  
10 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under  
11 paragraph (1).

12 “(f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

13 “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-  
14 dent may not award the National Technology and  
15 Innovation Medal posthumously.

16 “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-  
17 dent may not award the National Technology and  
18 Innovation Medal to—

19 “(A) the Vice President, the head of an  
20 Executive department, or a Member of Con-  
21 gress; or

22 “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or  
23 daughter-in-law of an individual described in  
24 subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-  
25 ble common law.”.

1 **SEC. 5. THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Na-  
3 tional Humanities Medal, which shall be a medal of such  
4 design as is determined appropriate by the President.

5 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall award  
6 the National Humanities Medal, on the basis of rec-  
7 ommendations from the National Council on the Human-  
8 ities, to an individual or a group who in the judgment of  
9 the President is deserving of special recognition by reason  
10 of outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth,  
11 support, and availability of the humanities in the United  
12 States.

13 (c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,  
14 the President shall award at least 1 National Humanities  
15 Medal, and the President may not award more than 5 of  
16 such medals in any calendar year.

17 (d) CITIZENSHIP.—

18 (1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An indi-  
19 vidual may be awarded the National Humanities  
20 Medal only if at the time the award is made such  
21 individual—

22 (A) is a citizen or other national of the  
23 United States; or

24 (B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the  
25 United States for permanent residency who—

1 (i) has filed an application or petition  
2 for naturalization in the manner prescribed  
3 by section 334 of the Immigration and Na-  
4 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

5 (ii) is eligible to become a citizen of  
6 the United States.

7 (2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may  
8 be awarded the National Humanities Medal only if  
9 such group is organized or incorporated in the  
10 United States.

11 (e) CEREMONIES.—

12 (1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation of  
13 the award under subsection (a) shall be made by the  
14 President, during the month of October of each cal-  
15 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President  
16 may determine proper.

17 (2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-  
18 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-  
19 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the  
20 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under  
21 paragraph (1).

22 (f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

23 (1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The President  
24 may not award the National Humanities Medal post-  
25 humously.

1           (2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-  
2           dent may not award the National Humanities Medal  
3           to—

4                   (A) the Vice President, the head of an Ex-  
5           ecutive department, or a Member of Congress;  
6           or

7                   (B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or daugh-  
8           ter-in-law of an individual described in subpara-  
9           graph (A), as determined under applicable com-  
10          mon law.

11 **SEC. 6. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
12                   **AWARD.**

13          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Na-  
14          tional Medal of Social Sciences, which shall be a medal  
15          of such design as is determined appropriate by the Presi-  
16          dent.

17          (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall award  
18          the National Medal of Social Sciences to an individual or  
19          a group who in the judgment of the President is deserving  
20          of special recognition by reason of outstanding contribu-  
21          tions to knowledge in the social sciences, on the basis of—

22                   (1) information and evidence the President de-  
23          termines appropriate; and

24                   (2) recommendations from—

1 (A) the presidential committee established  
2 to award the medal described in this section;

3 (B) the Director of the National Science  
4 Foundation;

5 (C) the President of the National Academy  
6 of Science; and

7 (D) the Director of the National Institutes  
8 of Health.

9 (c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,  
10 the President shall award at least 1 Medal of Social  
11 Sciences, and the President may not award more than 5  
12 of such medals in any calendar year.

13 (d) CITIZENSHIP.—

14 (1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An indi-  
15 vidual may be awarded the National Medal of Social  
16 Sciences only if at the time the award is made such  
17 individual—

18 (A) is a citizen or other national of the  
19 United States; or

20 (B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the  
21 United States for permanent residency who—

22 (i) has filed an application or petition  
23 for naturalization in the manner prescribed  
24 by section 334 of the Immigration and Na-  
25 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

1 (ii) is eligible to become a citizen of  
2 the United States.

3 (2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may  
4 be awarded the National Medal of Social Sciences  
5 only if such group is organized or incorporated in  
6 the United States.

7 (e) CEREMONIES.—

8 (1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation of  
9 the award under subsection (a) shall be made by the  
10 President, during the month of April of each cal-  
11 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President  
12 may determine proper.

13 (2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-  
14 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-  
15 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the  
16 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under  
17 paragraph (1).

18 (f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

19 (1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The President  
20 may not award the National Medal of Social  
21 Sciences posthumously.

22 (2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-  
23 dent may not award the National Medal of Social  
24 Sciences to—

1 (A) the Vice President, the head of an Ex-  
2 ecutive department, or a Member of Congress;

3 or

4 (B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or daugh-  
5 ter-in-law of an individual described in subpara-  
6 graph (A), as determined under applicable com-  
7 mon law.

8 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 A medal described in this Act shall be considered a  
10 “thing of value” for purposes of any Federal law with re-  
11 spect to bribery or corruption of a Government official.

12 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect  
14 on the later of 1 year after the enactment of this Act or,  
15 after the enactment of this Act, on the date that the Presi-  
16 dent awards at least 1 of each of the medals described  
17 in this Act.

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