

Union Calendar No. 138

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2988

[Report No. 118–174]

To provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York (for himself and Mr. SORENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Additional sponsors: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. TENNEY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 27, 2023]

A BILL

To provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, 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 “DOE and NASA Inter-*
5 *agency Research Coordination Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERO-**
7 **NAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RE-**
8 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this*
10 *section referred to as the “Secretary”) and the Adminis-*
11 *trator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-*
12 *tion (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”)*
13 *may carry out, as practicable, cross-cutting and collabo-*
14 *rative research and development activities to support the*
15 *advancement of Department of Energy and National Aero-*
16 *nautics and Space Administration mission requirements*
17 *and priorities. The Secretary and Administrator, in ac-*
18 *cordance with subsection (e), may make competitive awards*
19 *to carry out such activities.*

20 *(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary*
21 *and the Administrator shall coordinate the activities under*
22 *subsection (a) through memoranda of understanding, or*
23 *other appropriate interagency agreements.*

1 (c) *COORDINATION.*—*In carrying out the activities*
2 *under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator*
3 *may—*

4 (1) *conduct collaborative research and develop-*
5 *ment activities in a variety of focus areas that may*
6 *include—*

7 (A) *propulsion systems and components, in-*
8 *cluding nuclear thermal and nuclear electric pro-*
9 *pulsion, radioisotope power systems, thermo-*
10 *electric generators, advanced nuclear fuels, and*
11 *heater units;*

12 (B) *modeling and simulation, machine*
13 *learning, data assimilation, large scale data*
14 *analytics, and predictive analysis in order to op-*
15 *timize algorithms for mission-related purposes;*

16 (C) *fundamental high energy physics, astro-*
17 *physics, and cosmology, including the nature of*
18 *dark energy and dark matter, in accordance*
19 *with section 305 of the Department of Energy*
20 *Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18643);*

21 (D) *fundamental earth and environmental*
22 *sciences, in accordance with section 306 of the*
23 *Department of Energy Research and Innovation*
24 *Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) and section 60501 of title*
25 *51, United States Code;*

1 (E) quantum information sciences, includ-
2 ing quantum computing and quantum network
3 infrastructure, in accordance with sections 403
4 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act
5 (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

6 (F) radiation health effects, in accordance
7 with section 306 of the Department of Energy
8 Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

9 (G) ground- and space-based technology nec-
10 essary for the transmission to the Earth's surface
11 of solar energy collected in space; and

12 (H) other areas of potential research and
13 development collaboration the Secretary and the
14 Administrator determine important to achieving
15 agency missions and objectives;

16 (2) develop methods to accommodate large vol-
17 untary data sets on space and aeronautical informa-
18 tion on high-performance computing systems with
19 variable quality and scale;

20 (3) promote collaboration and data and informa-
21 tion sharing between the Department of Energy, Na-
22 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, the
23 National Laboratories, and other appropriate entities
24 by providing the necessary access and secure data and
25 information transfer capabilities; and

1 (4) support the Administration's access to the
2 Department's research infrastructure and capabilities,
3 as practicable.

4 (d) *AGREEMENTS.*—In carrying out the activities
5 under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator
6 are authorized to—

7 (1) carry out reimbursable and non-reimbursable
8 agreements between the Department of Energy and
9 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
10 and

11 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as
12 appropriate.

13 (e) *MERIT REVIEW PROCESS.*—The Secretary and the
14 Administrator shall ensure any competitive awards made
15 to carry out the activities under section (a) shall follow all
16 appropriate laws and agency policies, including the fol-
17 lowing:

18 (1) Selection by merit-review-based processes.

19 (2) Consideration of applications from Federal
20 agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher
21 education, non-profit institutions, and other appro-
22 priate entities.

23 (f) *REPORT.*—Not later than two years after the date
24 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Ad-
25 ministrator shall submit to the Committee on Science,

1 *Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and*
2 *the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the*
3 *Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of*
4 *the Senate, a report detailing the following:*

5 (1) *Interagency research and development coordi-*
6 *nation activities between the Department of Energy*
7 *and the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-*
8 *tion carried out under this section.*

9 (2) *How such coordination activities expand the*
10 *technical capabilities of the Department and the Ad-*
11 *ministration.*

12 (3) *Collaborative research and development*
13 *achievements.*

14 (4) *Areas of future mutually beneficial activities,*
15 *including potential applications of clean energy tech-*
16 *nologies, such as marine energy.*

17 (5) *Continuation of coordination activities be-*
18 *tween the Department of Energy and the National*
19 *Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

20 (g) *RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized*
21 *under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent*
22 *with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development,*
23 *Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of*
24 *the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C.*
25 *19231 et seq.)).*

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