

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1326

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2025

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

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## AN ACT

To provide for Department of Energy and Department of  
Agriculture joint research and development activities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “DOE and USDA Inter-  
3 agency Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF**  
5 **AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**  
6 **OPMENT ACTIVITIES.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the  
8 Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the  
9 “Secretaries”) shall carry out cross-cutting and collabo-  
10 rative research and development activities focused on the  
11 joint advancement of Department of Energy and Depart-  
12 ment of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

13       (b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-  
14 retaries shall carry out and coordinate the activities under  
15 subsection (a) through the establishment of a memo-  
16 randum of understanding, or other appropriate inter-  
17 agency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement shall  
18 require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process,  
19 which considers applications from Federal agencies, Na-  
20 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-  
21 profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

22       (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities  
23 under subsection (a), the Secretaries may carry out the  
24 following:

25               (1) Conduct collaborative research over a vari-  
26 ety of focus areas, such as the following:

1 (A) Modeling and simulation, machine  
2 learning, artificial intelligence, data assimila-  
3 tion, large scale data analytics, and predictive  
4 analysis in order to optimize algorithms for  
5 purposes related to agriculture and energy,  
6 such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or en-  
7 ergy systems.

8 (B) Fundamental agricultural, biological,  
9 computational, and environmental science and  
10 engineering, including advanced crop science,  
11 crop protection, breeding, and biological pest  
12 control, in collaboration with the program au-  
13 thorized under section 306 of the Department  
14 of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42  
15 U.S.C. 18644).

16 (C) Integrated natural resources and the  
17 energy-water nexus, including in collaboration  
18 with the program authorized under section  
19 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as di-  
20 vision Z of the Consolidated Appropriations  
21 Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183)).

22 (D) Advanced biomass, biobased products,  
23 and biofuels, including in collaboration with the  
24 activities authorized under section 9008(b) of

1 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of  
2 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b)).

3 (E) Diverse feedstocks for economically  
4 and environmentally sustainable fuels, including  
5 aviation and naval fuels.

6 (F) Colocation of agricultural resources  
7 and activities and ecosystem services with di-  
8 verse energy technologies and resources.

9 (G) Colocation of agricultural resources  
10 and activities with carbon storage and utiliza-  
11 tion technologies.

12 (H) Invasive species management to fur-  
13 ther the work done by the Federal Interagency  
14 Committee for the Management of Noxious and  
15 Exotic Weeds.

16 (I) Long-term and high-risk technological  
17 barriers in the development of transformative  
18 science and technology solutions in the agri-  
19 culture and energy sectors, including in collabo-  
20 ration with the program authorized under sec-  
21 tion 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 16538).

23 (J) Grid modernization and grid security.

24 (K) Rural technology development, includ-  
25 ing manufacturing, precision agriculture tech-

1           nologies, and mechanization and automation  
2           technologies.

3           (L) Wildfire risks and prevention, includ-  
4           ing the power sector's role in fire prevention  
5           and mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy  
6           infrastructure.

7           (2) Develop methods to accommodate large vol-  
8           untary standardized and integrated data sets on ag-  
9           ricultural, environmental, supply chain, and eco-  
10          nomic information with variable accuracy and scale.

11          (3) Promote collaboration, open community-  
12          based development, and data and information shar-  
13          ing between Federal agencies, National Labora-  
14          tories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit in-  
15          stitutions, industry partners, and other appropriate  
16          entities by providing reliable access to secure data  
17          and information that are in compliance with Federal  
18          rules and regulations.

19          (4) Support research infrastructure and work-  
20          force development as the Secretaries determine nec-  
21          essary.

22          (5) Conduct collaborative research, develop-  
23          ment, and demonstration of methods and tech-  
24          nologies to accomplish the following:

1                   (A) Improve the efficiency of agriculture  
2                   operations and processing of agricultural prod-  
3                   ucts.

4                   (B) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions asso-  
5                   ciated with such operations and such proc-  
6                   essing.

7           (d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities  
8           under subsection (a), the Secretaries are authorized to—

9                   (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between  
10           the Department of Energy, the Department of Agri-  
11           culture, and other entities in order to maximize the  
12           effectiveness of research and development; and

13                   (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as  
14           appropriate.

15           (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
16           of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit  
17           to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and  
18           the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
19           tives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
20           sources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
21           Forestry of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

22                   (1) Interagency coordination between each Fed-  
23           eral agency involved in the research and development  
24           activities carried out under this section.

1           (2) Potential opportunities to expand the tech-  
2           nical capabilities of the Department of Energy and  
3           the Department of Agriculture.

4           (3) Collaborative research achievements.

5           (4) Areas of future mutually beneficial suc-  
6           cesses.

7           (5) Continuation of coordination activities be-  
8           tween the Department of Energy and the Depart-  
9           ment of Agriculture.

10          (f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized  
11 under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent  
12 with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Develop-  
13 ment, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as divi-  
14 sion B of Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

Passed the House of Representatives March 24,  
2025.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,

*Clerk.*