

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1119

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and
development, 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 “Research and Develop-
3 ment Efficiency Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that—

7 (1) high and increasing administrative burdens
8 and costs in Federal research administration, par-
9 ticularly in the higher education sector where most
10 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-
11 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-
12 search;

13 (2) progress has been made over the last decade
14 in streamlining the pre-award grant application
15 process through Grants.gov, the Federal Govern-
16 ment’s website portal;

17 (3) post-award administrative costs have grown
18 as Federal research agencies have continued to im-
19 pose agency-unique compliance and reporting re-
20 quirements on researchers and research institutions;

21 (4) facilities and administration costs at re-
22 search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total
23 value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated
24 that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annu-
25 ally in federally funded research is consumed by pa-

1 perwork and other administrative processes required
2 by Federal agencies; and

3 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to
4 American competitiveness that administrative costs
5 of federally funded research be streamlined so that
6 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-
7 rect research activities.

8 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
9 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working
10 group under the authority of the National Science and
11 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management
12 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for
13 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-
14 search universities and making recommendations on how
15 to—

16 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-
17 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-
18 ments;

19 (2) minimize the regulatory burden on United
20 States institutions of higher education performing
21 federally funded research while maintaining account-
22 ability for Federal tax dollars; and

23 (3) identify and update specific regulations to
24 refocus on performance-based goals rather than on
25 process while still meeting the desired outcome.

1 (c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the re-
2 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group
3 shall take into account input and recommendations from
4 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and
5 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher
6 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,
7 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small
8 businesses, federally funded research and development
9 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,
10 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-
11 entific research.

12 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
14 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on
15 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
17 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been
18 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working
19 group established under subsection (b).

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.