

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3029

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2026

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

AN ACT

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and
Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening, 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 “Nucleic Acid Standards for
3 Biosecurity Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING NUCLEIC ACID SCREENING.**

5 Section 10221 of the Research and Development,
6 Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18931; en-
7 acted as part of title II of division B of Public Law 117–
8 167) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
11 “and” after the semicolon;

12 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
13 subparagraph (E); and

14 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
15 the following new subparagraph:

16 “(D) best practices, guidelines, and tech-
17 nical standards for risk management associated
18 with engineering biology and biomanufacturing,
19 including risks associated with the use of artifi-
20 cial intelligence; and”;

21 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
22 subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

23 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
24 lowing new subsection:

25 “(b) NUCLEIC ACID SYNTHESIS SCREENING TOOLS
26 AND STANDARDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consulta-
2 tion with heads of Federal agencies the Director
3 considers appropriate, shall carry out measurement
4 research to support the development and improve-
5 ment of best practices and technical standards for
6 biosecurity measures related to nucleic acid syn-
7 thesis, including the following:

8 “(A) Testing to improve the accuracy, effi-
9 cacy, and reliability of screening for nucleic acid
10 synthesis.

11 “(B) Best practices, including security and
12 access controls, for operational security and
13 managing sequence-of-concern databases to
14 support such screening.

15 “(C) Technical implementation guidance to
16 ensure such screening is effective and secure.

17 “(D) Conformity-assessment best practices
18 and technical standards.

19 “(E) Methods to evaluate the impact and
20 effectiveness of the implementation of subpara-
21 graphs (A) through (D).

22 “(2) CONSORTIUM.—In carrying out this sub-
23 section, the Director shall convene a consortium of
24 stakeholders, including industry, institutions of high-

1 er education, nonprofit organizations, and customers
2 to carry out the following:

3 “(A) Develop and periodically update con-
4 sensus priorities and best practices, as appro-
5 priate, for synthetic nucleic acid procurement
6 screening mechanisms.

7 “(B) Develop roadmaps to inform the ac-
8 tivities carried out under paragraph (1).

9 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
10 the first meeting of the consortium under paragraph
11 (2), the Director shall submit to the Committee on
12 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
13 ate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
14 nology of the House of Representatives a report
15 summarizing the findings of the consortium.

16 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of
17 the funds authorized to be appropriated for the Na-
18 tional Institute of Standards and Technology pursu-
19 ant to this section for scientific and technical re-
20 search and services laboratory activities, there is au-
21 thorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of

1 fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this
2 subsection.”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 20, 2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.