

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7334

To establish a commission on robotics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. LATTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, and Education and Workforce, 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

A BILL

To establish a commission on robotics, 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 Commission
5 on Robotics Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ROBOTICS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 establish an independent commission to be known as the
2 “Commission on American Leadership in Robotics” (in
3 this section referred to as the “Commission”). The Com-
4 mission shall examine robotics as such pertains to inter-
5 state and foreign commerce, economic competitiveness,
6 and national security, and make recommendations to the
7 appropriate congressional committees relating thereto.

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-
10 mission shall be composed of 18 members appointed
11 as follows:

12 (A) Three members appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

14 (B) Three members appointed by the Mi-
15 nority Leader of the House of Representatives.

16 (C) Three members appointed by the Ma-
17 jority Leader of the Senate.

18 (D) Three members appointed by the Mi-
19 nority Leader of the Senate.

20 (E) Six members appointed by the Presi-
21 dent of the United States.

22 (2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Members
23 shall be appointed to the Commission by not later
24 than 45 days after the date on which the Commis-
25 sion is established under subsection (a).

1 (3) EFFECT OF LACK OF APPOINTMENT BY AP-
2 POINTMENT DATE.—If one or more appointments
3 under paragraph (1) is not made by the appoint-
4 ment date specified in paragraph (2), the authority
5 to make such appointment or appointments shall ex-
6 pire, and the number of members of the Commission
7 shall be reduced by the number equal to the number
8 of appointments so not made.

9 (4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Com-
10 mission shall be individuals who are recognized ex-
11 perts and have appropriate professional experience
12 in matters relating to either of the following:

13 (A) Robotics.

14 (B) Applications, or potential applications,
15 of robotics by the private sector or public sec-
16 tor.

17 (c) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—

18 (1) CHAIR.—The Speaker of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate
20 shall jointly designate one member of the Commis-
21 sion to serve as Chair of the Commission.

22 (2) VICE CHAIR.—The Minority Leader of the
23 House of Representatives and the Minority Leader
24 of the Senate shall jointly designate one member of

1 the Commission to serve as Vice Chair of the Com-
2 mission.

3 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES.—

4 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

5 A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers

6 and shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-

7 pointment was made.

8 (e) SCOPE AND DUTIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry
10 out a review of advances in robotics. In carrying out
11 such review, the Commission shall consider the
12 methods, means, and policies necessary to advance
13 the development of robotics by the United States to
14 comprehensively address the economic competitive-
15 ness and national security needs of the United
16 States.

17 (2) SCOPE OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting the
18 review described in this subsection, the Commission
19 shall consider the following:

20 (A) The competitiveness of the United
21 States in robotics, including matters related to
22 the domestic marketplace for robotics and pri-
23 vate sector and public sector applications of ro-
24 botics in the United States.

1 (B) Means and methods for the United
2 States to assert and maintain a technological
3 advantage in robotics, specifically in the deploy-
4 ment of robotics in industrial, retail, and com-
5 mercial sectors in the United States.

6 (C) International developments and trends,
7 including foreign actions and policies to ad-
8 vance robotics.

9 (D) Means by which to foster greater em-
10 phasis and investments in robotics to stimulate
11 strategic partnerships in robotics with industry,
12 the public, and academic institutions, to the ex-
13 tent that such efforts have material application
14 related to economic competitiveness and manu-
15 facturing.

16 (E) Workforce incentives and programs to
17 attract and recruit leading talent in robotics,
18 including in associated science, technology, en-
19 gineering, and mathematics fields, to the extent
20 that such efforts relate to economic competitive-
21 ness in robotics.

22 (F) The global and domestic supply chain
23 for robotics, including any supply chain risks or
24 dependencies, and policies to increase the man-
25 ufacturing of robotics in the United States.

1 (G) Any other matters the Commission de-
2 termines appropriate related to robotics.

3 (f) COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-
4 TIONS.—

5 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year
6 after the date on which the Commission is estab-
7 lished under subsection (a), the Commission shall
8 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
9 and the President an interim report on the status of
10 the Commission's review under subsection (e), in-
11 cluding a discussion of any interim recommenda-
12 tions.

13 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than two years
14 after the date on which the Commission is estab-
15 lished under subsection (a), the Commission shall
16 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
17 and the President a final report on the findings of
18 the Commission and such recommendations as the
19 Commission may have for action by Congress and
20 the Federal Government.

21 (g) GOVERNMENT COOPERATION.—

22 (1) COOPERATION.—In carrying out its duties
23 under this section, the Commission shall receive the
24 full and timely cooperation of the Secretary and the
25 heads of other relevant Federal departments and

1 agencies in providing the Commission with analysis,
2 briefings, and other information necessary for the
3 fulfillment of such duties.

4 (2) LIAISON.—The Secretary shall designate at
5 least one officer or employee of the Department to
6 serve as a liaison officer between the Secretary and
7 the Commission.

8 (3) DETAILEES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
9 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments
10 and agencies may provide, and the Commission may
11 accept and employ, personnel detailed from the De-
12 partment and such other Federal departments and
13 agencies, as the case may be, without reimburse-
14 ment.

15 (4) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN SERVICES.—

16 (A) INDEPENDENT, NONGOVERNMENTAL
17 INSTITUTE.—Not later than 45 days after the
18 date on which the Commission is established
19 under subsection (a), the Secretary may make
20 available to the Commission the services of an
21 independent, nongovernmental institute de-
22 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
23 enue Code of 1986, and exempt from tax under
24 section 501(a) of such Code, that has recog-
25 nized credentials and expertise in economic

1 competitiveness and technology in order to fa-
2 cilitate the Commission's discharge of its duties
3 under this section.

4 (B) FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND
5 DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—On request of the
6 Commission, the Secretary shall make available
7 to the Commission the services of a federally
8 funded research and development center that is
9 covered by a sponsoring agreement of the De-
10 partment in order to enhance the Commission's
11 efforts to discharge its duties under this sec-
12 tion.

13 (5) OTHER SERVICES.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
15 provide to the Commission, on a nonreimburs-
16 able basis, such administrative services, funds,
17 staff, facilities, and other support services as
18 are necessary for the discharge of the Commis-
19 sion's duties under this section.

20 (B) OTHER AGENCIES.—In addition to any
21 support provided under paragraph (1), the
22 heads of other relevant Federal departments
23 and agencies may provide to the Commission
24 such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other

1 support as such heads determine advisable and
2 as may be authorized by law.

3 (h) STAFF.—

4 (1) STATUS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Not-
5 withstanding the requirements of section 2105 of
6 title 5, United States Code, including the required
7 supervision under subsection (a)(3) of such section,
8 a member of the Commission shall be considered to
9 be a Federal employee.

10 (2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission
11 shall appoint and fix the rate of basic pay for an Ex-
12 ecutive Director in accordance with section 3161(d)
13 of title 5, United States Code.

14 (3) PAY.—The Executive Director, with the ap-
15 proval of the Commission, may appoint and fix the
16 rate of basic pay for additional personnel as staff of
17 the Commission in accordance with section 3161(d)
18 of title 5, United States Code.

19 (i) PERSONAL SERVICES.—

20 (1) AUTHORITY TO PROCURE.—The Commis-
21 sion may—

22 (A) procure the services of experts or con-
23 sultants (or of organizations of experts or con-
24 sultants) in accordance with the provisions of
25 section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; and

1 (B) pay in connection with such services
2 travel expenses of individuals, including trans-
3 portation and per diem in lieu of subsistence,
4 while such individuals are traveling from their
5 homes or places of business to duty stations.

6 (2) MAXIMUM DAILY PAY RATES.—The daily
7 rate paid an expert or consultant procured pursuant
8 to paragraph (1) may not exceed the daily rate paid
9 a person occupying a position at level IV of the Ex-
10 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,
11 United States Code.

12 (j) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—The Commis-
13 sion may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations
14 of services, goods, and property from non-Federal entities
15 for the purposes of aiding and facilitating the work of the
16 Commission. The authority under this subsection does not
17 extend to gifts of money. Gifts accepted under this author-
18 ity shall be documented, and conflicts of interest or the
19 appearance of conflicts of interest shall be avoided. Sub-
20 ject to the authority in this section, members of the Com-
21 mission shall otherwise comply with rules set forth by the
22 Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate and the Com-
23 mittee on Ethics of the House of Representatives gov-
24 erning employees of the Senate and House of Representa-
25 tives, respectively.

1 (k) LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The
2 Commission shall operate as a legislative advisory com-
3 mittee.

4 (l) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Commission
5 may acquire such administrative supplies and equipment
6 as necessary for Commission use to the extent funds are
7 available.

8 (m) USE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMA-
9 TION.—The Commission may secure directly from any
10 Federal department or agency such information as the
11 Commission considers necessary to discharge its duties.
12 Upon such request of the Chair of the Commission, the
13 head of such Federal department or agency shall furnish
14 such information to the Commission.

15 (n) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
16 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
17 same conditions as Federal departments and agencies.

18 (o) SPACE FOR USE OF COMMISSION.—Not later
19 than 30 days after the date on which the Commission is
20 established under subsection (a), the Administrator of
21 General Services, in consultation with the Commission,
22 shall identify and make available suitable excess space
23 within the Federal space inventory to house the operations
24 of the Commission. If the Administrator is not able to
25 make such suitable excess space available within such 30-

1 day period, the Commission may lease space to the extent
2 funds are available.

3 (p) REMOVAL OF MEMBERS.—A member may be re-
4 moved from the Commission for cause by the individual
5 serving in the position responsible for the original appoint-
6 ment of such member under subsection (b)(1), if notice
7 has first been provided to such member of the cause for
8 such removal and such removal is voted and agreed upon
9 by three quarters of the members serving. A vacancy cre-
10 ated by such removal shall not affect the powers of the
11 Commission, and shall be filled in the same manner as
12 the original appointment was made.

13 (q) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
14 18 months after the date on which the Commission sub-
15 mits the final report required under subsection (f)(2).

16 (r) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
18 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
19 mittees” means the Committee on Energy and Com-
20 merce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
21 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
22 the Senate.

23 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
24 means the Department of Commerce.

1 (3) ROBOTICS.—The term “robotics” includes
2 each of the following:

3 (A) Programmable multifunctional me-
4 chanical devices designed to move material,
5 parts, tools, or specialized devices through vari-
6 able programmed motions to perform a variety
7 of tasks.

8 (B) Programmed actuated mechanisms
9 with a degree of autonomy to perform loco-
10 motion, manipulation, or positioning.

11 (C) Automatically controlled, reprogram-
12 mable, multipurpose manipulators, program-
13 mable in three or more axes, which can be ei-
14 ther fixed in place or fixed to a mobile platform
15 for use in automation applications in an indus-
16 trial environment.

17 (D) Machines that—

18 (i) can sense their environment;

19 (ii) have the capacity to process the
20 information they sense; and

21 (iii) are organized to act directly upon
22 their environment.

23 (E) Mechanical devices that are capable of
24 locomotion, navigation, or movement on the
25 ground, and operate at a distance from one or

1 more operators or supervisors based on com-
2 mands or in response to sensor data, or
3 through any combination thereof, and that may
4 also be referred to as “unmanned ground vehi-
5 cle systems”.

6 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Commerce.

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