

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9755

To establishes a new position of Senior Biotechnology Official within the Department of State to enhance United States leadership in global biotechnology challenges by leading United States efforts in biotechnology diplomacy, security, and innovation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2026

Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. BERA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establishes a new position of Senior Biotechnology Official within the Department of State to enhance United States leadership in global biotechnology challenges by leading United States efforts in biotechnology diplomacy, security, and innovation, 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 “Biotechnology Diplo-
5 macy Leadership Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR BIOTECHNOLOGY OFFI-**
2 **CIAL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
5 shall appoint an individual to the position of Senior Bio-
6 technology Official to enhance United States leadership in
7 biotechnology diplomacy, innovation, and security by
8 working closely with other United States departments and
9 agencies involved in biotechnology.

10 (b) LEVEL AND QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual
11 appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

12 (1) possess significant expertise in bio-
13 technology, international relations, and diplomacy;
14 and

15 (2) have experience—

16 (A) leading or coordinating international
17 biotechnology initiatives;

18 (B) managing complex projects related to
19 biotechnology;

20 (C) navigating the intersection of bio-
21 technology and national security; and

22 (D) managing interagency and inter-
23 national collaborations on biotechnology-related
24 issues, with a focus on national security.

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF SENIOR BIOTECHNOLOGY OFFICIAL.**

2 (a) PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Under the super-
3 vision of the Secretary of State, the Senior Biotechnology
4 Official shall lead and coordinate the Department of
5 State’s efforts, in collaboration with other relevant Fed-
6 eral officials, offices, and agencies, related to—

7 (1) supporting and advising the Secretary of
8 State regarding issues related to biotechnology, in-
9 cluding the intersection of biotechnology with na-
10 tional security, global economic development, and
11 global partnerships;

12 (2) leading United States diplomatic and policy
13 efforts related to international cooperation on activi-
14 ties to promote and protect United States priorities
15 and interests in emerging biotechnology and national
16 security, including coordinating biotechnology policy
17 and initiatives with foreign governments, inter-
18 national organizations, private sector entities, and
19 relevant stakeholders to advance global bio-
20 technology innovation and security;

21 (3) representing the Department of State in
22 international biotechnology discussions, working
23 groups, forums, and initiatives to advocate for
24 United States policy and priorities in biotechnology;

25 (4) working with United States agencies to
26 align and leverage biotechnology-related resources

1 and funding for international partnership and col-
2 laboration;

3 (5) overseeing the implementation of United
4 States commitments to international biotechnology
5 initiatives, including—

6 (A) securing biotechnology supply chains;

7 (B) advancing commercial and regulatory
8 diplomacy;

9 (C) facilitating reciprocal biological data-
10 sharing agreements;

11 (D) promoting joint research and develop-
12 ment; and

13 (E) supporting capacity-building programs
14 in partner nations; and

15 (6) providing regular reports to the Secretary of
16 State regarding the status of international bio-
17 technology diplomacy efforts, including the progress
18 and outcomes of biotechnology initiatives, partner-
19 ships, and any emerging issues or opportunities in
20 the global biotechnology landscape.

21 (b) SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION.—As used in sub-
22 section (a)(5), the term “implementation” includes—

23 (1) fulfilling obligations under international
24 agreements and frameworks;

- 1 (2) advancing shared objectives with allied and
2 partner nations;
3 (3) contributing to multilateral forums and
4 working groups;
5 (4) coordinating technical assistance and capac-
6 ity building;
7 (5) monitoring and reporting progress; and
8 (6) ensuring policy and programmatic follow-
9 through.

10 (c) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to
11 the responsibilities set forth in subsection (a), the Senior
12 Biotechnology Official may also be tasked with any other
13 duties that the Secretary of State determines are nec-
14 essary—

- 15 (1) to advance Department of State goals; and
16 (2) to further the objectives of United States
17 biotechnology diplomacy.

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