

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4397

To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to improve transparency of the regulatory process and coordination of science among Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2026

Mr. RICKETTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to improve transparency of the regulatory process and coordination of science among Federal agencies, 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 “Sound Science Act of
5 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. TESTING.**

7 (a) TESTING REQUIREMENT RULE, ORDER, OR CON-
8 SENT AGREEMENT.—Section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Toxic Sub-

stances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “methodologies” and inserting “technically feasible methodologies”; and

(2) by inserting “the intended and known purposes to be manufactured, processed, distributed in commerce, used, or disposed of for” after “the development of information for”.

(b) REQUIRED ACTIONS.—Section 4(f) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(f)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by striking “, made without consideration of costs or other nonrisk factors,”.

(c) TESTING MODERNIZATION.—Section 4(h) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by inserting “, including by requiring the use of relevant Test Guidelines that are published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and identified by the Administrator and included on the list under paragraph (2)(C)” before the semicolon; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “on a regular basis” and inserting “at least once every 2 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by striking “public notice and comment on the contents of the plan” and inserting the following: “public notice and comment on—

“(i) the contents of the plan”;

(ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by adding “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) the test methods and strategies proposed to be identified pursuant to subparagraph (C) for inclusion on the list under such subparagraph;”.

**SEC. 3. CONSISTENCY AMONG EXISTING REQUIREMENTS
AND AMONG FEDERAL DEPARTMENT RISK IN-
FORMATION.**

(a) SCOPE OF REGULATION.—Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2605(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “apply one or more of the following requirements to

1 such substance or mixture to the extent necessary so that
2 the chemical substance or mixture no longer presents such
3 risk:” and inserting “apply, to the extent necessary, one
4 or more of the following requirements to such substance
5 or mixture in order to minimize, to the extent reasonably
6 feasible, such risk of injury to health or the environment:”.

7 (b) RISK EVALUATIONS.—Section 6(b)(4) of the
8 Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2605(b)(4)) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (F)—

11 (A) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(ii) consider—

14 “(I) only hazards and exposures
15 that are more likely than not to result
16 in an unreasonable risk of injury to
17 health or the environment;

18 “(II) sentinel exposures to the
19 chemical substance; and

20 “(III) aggregate exposures only if
21 the Administrator issues a written de-
22 termination that such consideration is
23 necessary to provide greater clarity or
24 precision in the risk evaluation;”;

1 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “; and” and
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (C) in clause (v), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (D) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(vi) consider any exposure limits or
7 thresholds relating to the chemical sub-
8 stance developed by another Federal de-
9 partment or agency under any applicable
10 law or regulation; and

11 “(vii) not assume noncompliance with
12 any such applicable law or regulation relat-
13 ing to the chemical substance, including
14 any occupational safety and health stand-
15 ard promulgated under section 6 of the
16 Occupational Safety and Health Act of
17 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655) relating to the
18 chemical substance.”;

19 (2) in subparagraph (H), by striking “30 days”
20 and inserting “60 days”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(I) INTERAGENCY REVIEW.—In con-
23 ducting a risk evaluation under this subsection,
24 the Administrator shall provide a process for
25 Federal departments and agencies to submit in-

formation and feedback on critical uses, alternatives, and supply chain impacts, including by providing not less than 30 days to submit comments on the draft risk evaluation prior to providing public notice and an opportunity for comment in accordance with subparagraph (H).”.

(c) PROMULGATION OF SUBSECTION (A) RULES.—

Section 6(c)(2) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2605(c)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) SELECTING REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting among requirements under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

“(i) factor in, to the extent practicable—

“(I) the considerations under subparagraph (A), in accordance with subsection (a); and

“(II) any occupational safety and health standards promulgated under section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655) relating to the chemical substance; and

1 “(ii) select those requirements that, to
2 the extent applicable—

3 “(I) are cost-effective in relation
4 to the minimization of the unreason-
5 able risk; and

6 “(II) do not result in the creation
7 of greater risks for health or the envi-
8 ronment.”.

9 (d) REASONABLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Sec-
10 tion 26(k) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C.
11 2625(k)) is amended by inserting “and the existing re-
12 quirements, prohibitions, and restrictions for the chemical
13 substance or mixture under the Occupational Safety and
14 Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) (including
15 regulations promulgated under that Act)” before the pe-
16 riod at the end.

17 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY OF FINAL AGENCY**
18 **ACTIONS.**

19 Section 6(i)(2) of the Toxic Substances Control Act
20 (15 U.S.C. 2605(i)(2)) is amended by inserting “and any
21 scientific assessment relied on by the Administrator in
22 conducting a risk evaluation for that chemical substance
23 under subsection (b)” after “environment”.

1 **SEC. 5. STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS.**

2 Section 26 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15
3 U.S.C. 2625) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (h)—

5 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
8 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) if the Administrator is relying on the sci-
11 entific standards described in this subsection or the
12 weighting described in subsection (i), the extent to
13 which any draft or final scientific assessment or risk
14 evaluation developed by the Administrator is con-
15 sistent with those standards or that weighting;

16 “(7) to the extent that the Administrator estab-
17 lishes any worker protection standards, the results
18 of consultations with—

19 “(A) other Federal departments and agen-
20 cies, including the Occupational Safety and
21 Health Administration; and

22 “(B) to evaluate the need for a unique
23 worker protection standard established by the
24 Administrator, trained experts in industrial hy-
25 giene, toxicology, engineering, and process safe-
26 ty (including industry experts); and

1 “(8) the comments and expertise of other Fed-
2 eral departments and agencies, as provided pursuant
3 to the interagency review process required under sec-
4 tion 6(b)(4)(F)(viii), including the Department of
5 Defense, the Department of Energy, the Occupa-
6 tional Safety and Health Administration, and the
7 Department of Agriculture.”; and

8 (2) in subsection (o), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(5) COMMITTEE REVIEW.—

11 “(A) IN-PERSON PEER REVIEW.—When re-
12 viewing a risk evaluation carried out under sec-
13 tion 6(b), the Committee shall conduct a com-
14 plete in-person peer review.

15 “(B) PERIOD OF REVIEW.—In carrying out
16 subparagraph (A), the Committee shall provide
17 a period of not less than 30 days to allow re-
18 viewers—

19 “(i) to conduct peer reviews; and

20 “(ii) to ensure a thorough review of—

21 “(I) the risk evaluation, including
22 the underlying science relied on by the
23 Administration and the risk deter-
24 minations of the Administrator; and

1 “(II) the quality and scientific
2 veracity of any draft or final scientific
3 assessment relied on by the Adminis-
4 trator in conducting the risk evalua-
5 tion.”.

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