

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4423

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to require each institution of higher education to certify as part of an application for a research and development award that such institution does not operate certain branch campuses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to require each institution of higher education to certify as part of an application for a research and development award that such institution does not operate certain branch campuses, 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. RESEARCH SECURITY REQUIREMENT FOR IN-**
4 **STITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VI of the Re-
6 search and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act

1 (42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
 2 section 10634 the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 10634A. RESEARCH SECURITY REQUIREMENT FOR IN-**
 4 **STITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after
 6 the date of the enactment of this section, each head of
 7 a Federal research agency shall require an institution of
 8 higher education applying for a research and development
 9 award from such agency to include on an application for
 10 such an award a certification that such institution does
 11 not operate a branch campus in any of the following:

12 “(1) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

13 “(2) The Democratic People’s Republic of
 14 Korea.

15 “(3) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

16 “(4) The People’s Republic of China.

17 “(5) The Republic of Cuba.

18 “(6) The Republic of Turkey.

19 “(7) The Russian Federation.

20 “(8) The State of Qatar.

21 “(9) Any other country the Secretary of State
 22 determines appropriate.

23 “(b) BRANCH CAMPUS DEFINED.—The term ‘branch
 24 campus’ means a unit of an institution of higher education

1 that is geographically separate from the main campus of
 2 such institution and satisfies the following requirements:

3 “(1) Is permanent in nature.

4 “(2) Offers courses leading to a degree, certifi-
 5 cate, or other education credential.

6 “(3) Has the following:

7 “(A) Faculty and administration specific to
 8 such unit.

9 “(B) Budgetary and hiring authority.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 117–167
 11 is amended in the table of contents in sections 1 and
 12 10000 by inserting after the items relating to section
 13 10634 the following new items:

“Sec. 10634A. Research security requirement for institutions of higher edu-
 cation.”.

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