

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4934

To establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, 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 as the “National Fab Lab Net-  
3 work Act of 2026”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds the following:

6           (1) Scientific discoveries and technical innova-  
7 tions are critical to the economic and national secu-  
8 rity of the United States.

9           (2) Maintaining the leadership of the United  
10 States in science, technology, engineering, and math-  
11 ematics will require a diverse population with the  
12 skills, interest, and access to tools required to ad-  
13 vance these fields.

14           (3) Just as earlier digital revolutions in commu-  
15 nications and computation provided individuals with  
16 the internet and personal computers, a digital revo-  
17 lution in fabrication will allow anyone to make al-  
18 most anything, anywhere.

19           (4) These creations include elements of a typ-  
20 ical household basket of goods (furnishings, apparel,  
21 food production equipment, shelter, transportation,  
22 education and communication, recreation, and other  
23 goods and services), personal technology, means for  
24 personal expression, the production of digital fab-  
25 rication machinery, community design, and manufac-  
26 turing capability.

1           (5) The Center for Bits and Atoms of the Mas-  
2           sachusetts Institute of Technology (CBA) has con-  
3           tributed significantly to the advancement of these  
4           goals through its work in creating and advancing  
5           digital fabrication facilities, or “fab labs” in the  
6           United States and abroad.

7           (6) Such digital fabrication facilities may in-  
8           clude MakerSpaces, Hackerspaces, and other cre-  
9           ative spaces that use digital fabrication as a plat-  
10          form for education, innovation, entrepreneurship,  
11          personal expression, public access, and social impact.

12          (7) Such digital fabrication facilities provide a  
13          model for a new kind of national laboratory that op-  
14          erates as a network, linking local facilities for ad-  
15          vanced manufacturing, providing universal access,  
16          cultivating new literacies, and empowering commu-  
17          nities.

18          (8) The nonprofit Fab Foundation was estab-  
19          lished to support the growth of the international net-  
20          work of digital fabrication facilities, to amplify the  
21          educational, entrepreneurial, and social impacts of  
22          digital fabrication facilities, and to support the de-  
23          velopment of regional capacity building organizations  
24          to broaden impact as well as address local, regional,

1 and global challenges through the use of digital fab-  
2 rication technologies.

3 (9) A coordinated array of national public-pri-  
4 vate partnerships will be the most effective way to  
5 accelerate the provision of universal access to this  
6 infrastructure for workforce development, science,  
7 technology, engineering, and mathematics education,  
8 developing inventions, creating businesses, producing  
9 personalized products, and mitigating risks.

10 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAB LAB NETWORK.**

11 (a) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “fab lab”  
12 means a facility that—

13 (1) contains the range of capabilities required  
14 to create form and function from digital designs, in-  
15 cluding—

16 (A) computer-controlled machines for addi-  
17 tive and subtractive fabrication processes;

18 (B) tools and components for manufac-  
19 turing and programming electronic circuits;

20 (C) materials and methods for short-run  
21 production; and

22 (D) workflows for three-dimensional design  
23 and digitization; and

24 (2) is committed to supporting education, inno-  
25 vation, entrepreneurship, personal expression, self-

1        sufficiency, and social impact for its community  
2        through digital fabrication.

3        (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a  
4        nonprofit corporation to be known as the “National Fab  
5        Lab Network” (in this Act referred to as the “corpora-  
6        tion”), which shall not be an agency or establishment of  
7        the United States Government. The corporation shall be  
8        subject to the provisions of this Act, and, to the extent  
9        consistent with this Act, to the District of Columbia Non-  
10       profit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section 29–501 et  
11       seq.).

12       (c) GOALS AND ACTIVITIES.—

13            (1) GOALS.—The goals of the corporation are  
14       as follows:

15            (A) To provide universal access to digital  
16       fabrication.

17            (B) To foster current and future fab labs.

18            (C) To create a national network of con-  
19       nected local fab labs to empower individuals  
20       and communities in the United States.

21            (D) To foster the use of distributed digital  
22       fabrication tools—

23            (i) to promote science, technology, en-  
24       gineering and math skills;

- 1 (ii) to increase invention and innova-  
2 tion;  
3 (iii) to create businesses and jobs;  
4 (iv) to fulfill personal, professional,  
5 and community needs;  
6 (v) to create value and mitigate harm;  
7 (vi) to increase self-sufficiency for in-  
8 dividuals, households, and communities;  
9 and  
10 (vii) to align workforce development  
11 with new and emerging jobs.

12 (E) To provide a platform for education  
13 and research, to catalyze new methods in  
14 science, technology, engineering, and mathe-  
15 matics education, and to introduce digital fab-  
16 rication as an essential new literacy.

17 (F) To create new ways of educating the  
18 workforce that will enable workers to compete  
19 in a 21st century global marketplace.

20 (2) ACTIVITIES.—To attain the goals described  
21 in paragraph (1), the corporation shall carry out ac-  
22 tivities, including the following:

23 (A) Seek to establish a minimum of one  
24 fab lab in each congressional district,  
25 prioritizing underserved communities.

1           (B) Seek to establish additional fab labs  
2           within the network created under paragraph  
3           (1)(C), in response to local demand, and pro-  
4           vide guidelines for their sustainable operation.

5           (C) Link fab labs into a national network  
6           and promote further expansion of fab labs  
7           across the United States.

8           (D) Serve as a resource to assist diverse  
9           public and private stakeholders with the effec-  
10          tive operation of fab labs and the training of  
11          fab lab leaders and mentors.

12          (E) Maintain a national registry of fab  
13          labs.

14          (F) Provide standards and protocols for  
15          connecting fab labs regionally, nationally, and  
16          globally.

17          (G) Assist existing fab labs in producing  
18          additional fab labs.

19          (d) MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.—Except as  
20          provided in this Act, eligibility for membership in the cor-  
21          poration and the rights and privileges of members shall  
22          be in accordance with the laws governing tax exempt orga-  
23          nizations in the District of Columbia.

24          (e) GOVERNING BODY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
2           graph (2), directors, officers, and other staff of the  
3           corporation, and their powers and duties, shall be in  
4           accordance with the laws governing tax exempt orga-  
5           nizations in the District of Columbia.

6           (2) BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

7           (A) COMPOSITION.—The board of the cor-  
8           poration shall be composed of not fewer than 7  
9           members and not more than 15 members.

10          (B) REPRESENTATION.—

11           (i) IN GENERAL.—The membership of  
12           the board of the corporation shall collec-  
13           tively represent the diversity of fab labs.

14           (ii) REQUIREMENT.—At a minimum,  
15           the board of the corporation shall be com-  
16           posed of members from geographic regions  
17           across the United States, Tribal commu-  
18           nities, educational and research institu-  
19           tions, libraries, nonprofit and commercial  
20           organizations, diverse demographic groups,  
21           and the Fab Foundation.

22           (iii) INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION.—  
23           An individual member of the board of the  
24           corporation may represent more than one  
25           board role and additional roles may be

1 added to reflect the diversity of the fab lab  
2 ecosystem.

3 (C) SELECTION.—The initial board of the  
4 corporation shall be chosen, in consultation with  
5 representatives from the Fab Foundation and  
6 in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), as fol-  
7 lows:

8 (i) Two shall be appointed by the ma-  
9 jority leader of the Senate.

10 (ii) Two shall be appointed by the mi-  
11 nority leader of the Senate.

12 (iii) Two shall be appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

14 (iv) Two shall be appointed by the mi-  
15 nority leader of the House of Representa-  
16 tives.

17 (f) POWERS.—The corporation may—

18 (1) coordinate the creation of a national net-  
19 work of local fab labs in the United States;

20 (2) issue guidelines for the sustainable oper-  
21 ation of fab labs;

22 (3) issue standards and guidelines for fab labs;

23 (4) serve as a resource for organizations and  
24 communities seeking to create fab labs by providing  
25 information, assessing suitability, advising on the lab

1 lifecycle, and maintaining descriptions of prospective  
2 and operating sites;

3 (5) accept funds from private individuals, orga-  
4 nizations, government agencies, or other organiza-  
5 tions;

6 (6) distribute funds to other organizations to  
7 establish and operate fab labs as members of the  
8 corporation;

9 (7) facilitate communication between other or-  
10 rganizations seeking to join the corporation with  
11 operational entities that can source and install fab  
12 labs, provide training, assist with operations, ac-  
13 count for spending, and assess impact;

14 (8) communicate the benefits available through  
15 membership in the corporation to communities and  
16 the public;

17 (9) facilitate and participate in synergistic pro-  
18 grams, including workforce training, job creation, re-  
19 searching the enabling technology and broader im-  
20 pacts of such programs, and the production of civic  
21 infrastructure;

22 (10) develop processes and methods to mitigate  
23 risks associated with digital fabrication;

1           (11) develop and amend a constitution and by-  
2       laws for the management of its property and the  
3       regulation of its affairs;

4           (12) choose directors, officers, trustees, man-  
5       agers, employees, and agents as the activities of the  
6       corporation require;

7           (13) make contracts;

8           (14) acquire, own, lease, encumber, and trans-  
9       fer property as necessary or convenient to carry out  
10      the purposes of the corporation;

11          (15) borrow money, issue instruments of indebt-  
12      edness, and secure its obligations by granting secu-  
13      rity interests in its property;

14          (16) charge and collect membership dues and  
15      subscription fees; and

16          (17) sue and be sued.

17      (g) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO NAME, TERM, SEALS, EM-  
18      BLEMS, AND BADGES.—The corporation and its partici-  
19      pating digital fabrication labs have the exclusive right to  
20      use—

21          (1) the name “National Fab Lab Network”;  
22      and

23          (2) any seals, emblems, and badges the corpora-  
24      tion adopts.

25      (h) RESTRICTIONS.—

1           (1) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation  
2       may not issue securities of any kind or declare or  
3       pay a dividend.

4           (2) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—  
5       The income or assets of the corporation may not  
6       inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a direc-  
7       tor, officer, or member during the life of the cor-  
8       poration under this Act. This paragraph does not  
9       prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to  
10      an officer or reimbursement for actual necessary ex-  
11      penses in amounts approved by the board of the cor-  
12      poration.

13          (3) LOANS.—The corporation may not make a  
14      loan to a director, officer, or employee.

15          (4) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR  
16      AUTHORITY.—The corporation may not claim con-  
17      gressional approval or the authority of the United  
18      States Government for any of its activities, but may  
19      recognize establishment of the corporation pursuant  
20      to subsection (b) of this section.

21      (i) RECORDS AND INSPECTION.—

22          (1) RECORDS.—The corporation shall keep—

23              (A) correct and complete records of ac-  
24          count;

1 (B) minutes of the proceedings of its mem-  
2 bers, the board of the corporation, and commit-  
3 tees having any of the authority of the board;  
4 and

5 (C) at its principal office, a record of the  
6 names and addresses of its members entitled to  
7 vote.

8 (2) INSPECTIONS.—A member entitled to vote,  
9 or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect  
10 the records of the corporation for any proper pur-  
11 pose, at any reasonable time.

12 (j) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less fre-  
14 quently than annually thereafter, the corporation shall  
15 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
16 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
17 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
18 resentatives a report on the activities of the corporation  
19 during the prior fiscal year.

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