

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1067

To establish a Federal coordination and planning process for advanced research instrumentation and facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 Federal coordination and planning process for advanced research instrumentation and facilities.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Instruments are the key to the advancement
6 of scientific and engineering research and the devel-
7 opment of new and improved technologies.

1 (2) The need for specialized instruments has
2 become broader, crossing scientific and engineering
3 disciplines.

4 (3) Research progress in interdisciplinary fields
5 increasingly relies on the availability of advanced in-
6 struments, or systems of instruments, that require
7 highly specialized knowledge and training for their
8 proper operation and use.

9 (4) A committee of the National Academy of
10 Sciences has recommended that Federal research
11 agencies place greater emphasis on developing for-
12 mal mechanisms to support access by researchers to
13 advanced instruments that exceed the cost of instru-
14 ments that can be acquired under normal research
15 grants and that require special support arrange-
16 ments for their operation and use.

17 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) **ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION**
20 **AND FACILITIES.**—The term “advanced research in-
21 strumentation and facilities” means instrumentation
22 that is used for research, including collections of
23 closely related or interacting instruments, networks
24 of sensors, databases, and cyber infrastructure and
25 that is commonly acquired by large-scale centers or

1 research programs rather than by individual inves-
2 tigators.

3 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
5 Policy.

6 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION.**

7 The Director shall use the National Science and
8 Technology Council as a forum for coordination and col-
9 laboration among Federal agencies in developing best
10 practices for the support of advanced research instrumen-
11 tation and facilities at academic institutions, and shall en-
12 courage the development of centralized programs for sup-
13 port of advanced research instrumentation and facilities
14 at all Federal research agencies that sponsor research at
15 academic institutions. This forum shall also provide advice
16 to the Director in developing advanced research instru-
17 mentation and facilities policies in accordance with section
18 4.

19 **SEC. 4. POLICY FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTRUMENTA-**
20 **TION AND FACILITIES.**

21 The Director shall develop and implement policies for
22 Federal support for advanced research instrumentation
23 and facilities, which shall include—

24 (1) consistent policies among Federal agencies
25 for the support of the operations and maintenance

1 costs of advanced research instrumentation and fa-
2 cilities acquired in whole or in part from Federal
3 funding sources, including policies to encourage and
4 support the career development of technical research
5 support staff for instrumentation;

6 (2) guidelines for the appropriate balance in
7 Federal funding for research at academic institu-
8 tions between research project support and the ac-
9 quisition, operations and maintenance of advanced
10 research instrumentation and facilities; and

11 (3) policy and procedures for support by mul-
12 tiple Federal agencies, including joint grant sollicita-
13 tions, for advanced research instrumentation and fa-
14 cilities that would be useful for multiple fields of re-
15 search and relevant to the research goals of multiple
16 Federal agencies.

17 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

18 The Director shall provide a report describing the co-
19 ordination activities carried out in accordance with section
20 3 and the status of the development and implementation
21 of policies and guidelines called for under section 4 to the
22 Committee on Science of the House of Representatives
23 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-

1 tation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this Act.

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