

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2932

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories.

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 “Microlab Technology
5 Commercialization Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) MICROLAB.—The term “microlab” means a
9 small laboratory established by the Secretary under
10 section 3.

1 (2) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “na-
2 tional laboratory” means—

3 (A) a National Laboratory, as defined in
4 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
5 U.S.C. 15801); and

6 (B) a national security laboratory, as de-
7 fined in section 3281 of the National Nuclear
8 Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2471).

9 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Energy.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MICROLAB PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration
13 with the directors of national laboratories, may establish
14 a microlab program under which the Secretary establishes
15 microlabs that are located in close proximity to national
16 laboratories and that are accessible to the public for the
17 purposes of—

18 (1) enhancing collaboration with regional re-
19 search groups, such as institutions of higher edu-
20 cation and industry groups; and

21 (2) accelerating technology transfer from na-
22 tional laboratories to the marketplace.

23 (b) CRITERIA.—In determining the placement of
24 microlabs under subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-
25 sider—

1 (1) the commitment of a national laboratory to
2 establishing a microlab;

3 (2) the existence of a joint research institute or
4 a new facility that—

5 (A) is not on the main site of a national
6 laboratory;

7 (B) is in close proximity to a national lab-
8 oratory; and

9 (C) has the capability to house a microlab;

10 (3) whether employees of a national laboratory
11 and persons from academia, industry, and govern-
12 ment are available to be assigned to the microlab;
13 and

14 (4) cost-sharing or in-kind contributions from
15 State and local governments and private industry.

16 (c) TIMING.—If the Secretary, in collaboration with
17 the directors of national laboratories, elects to establish
18 a microlab program under this section, the Secretary, in
19 collaboration with the directors of national laboratories,
20 shall—

21 (1) not later than 60 days after the date of en-
22 actment of this Act, begin the process of deter-
23 mining the placement of microlabs under subsection
24 (a); and

1 (2) not later than 180 days after the date of
2 enactment of this Act, implement the microlab pro-
3 gram under this section.

4 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

5 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
6 the date of implementation of the microlab program under
7 section 3, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
8 Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed
9 Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee
10 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the
11 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
12 House of Representatives a report that provides an update
13 on the implementation of the microlab program under sec-
14 tion 3.

15 (b) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
16 the date of implementation of the microlab program under
17 section 3, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
18 Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed
19 Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee
20 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the
21 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
22 House of Representatives a report on the microlab pro-
23 gram under section 3, including findings and rec-
24 ommendations of the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015.

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