

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 35

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 8, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To increase the understanding of the health effects of low
doses of ionizing radiation.

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 “Low-Dose Radiation
3 Research Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department
6 of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a research pro-
7 gram on low dose radiation. The purpose of the program
8 is to enhance the scientific understanding of and reduce
9 uncertainties associated with the effects of exposure to low
10 dose radiation in order to inform improved risk manage-
11 ment methods.

12 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an
14 agreement with the National Academies to conduct a
15 study assessing the current status and development of a
16 long-term strategy for low dose radiation research. Such
17 study shall be completed not later than 18 months after
18 the date of enactment of this Act. The study shall be con-
19 ducted in coordination with Federal agencies that perform
20 ionizing radiation effects research and shall leverage the
21 most current studies in this field. Such study shall—

22 (1) identify current scientific challenges for un-
23 derstanding the long-term effects of ionizing radi-
24 ation;

1 (2) assess the status of current low dose radi-
2 ation research in the United States and internation-
3 ally;

4 (3) formulate overall scientific goals for the fu-
5 ture of low-dose radiation research in the United
6 States;

7 (4) recommend a long-term strategic and
8 prioritized research agenda to address scientific re-
9 search goals for overcoming the identified scientific
10 challenges in coordination with other research ef-
11 forts;

12 (5) define the essential components of a re-
13 search program that would address this research
14 agenda within the universities and the National Lab-
15 oratories; and

16 (6) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of such
17 a program.

18 (c) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after
19 the completion of the study performed under subsection
20 (b) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver to the Committee
21 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
23 Resources of the Senate a 5-year research plan that re-
24 sponds to the study’s findings and recommendations and
25 identifies and prioritizes research needs.

1 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “low dose
2 radiation” means a radiation dose of less than 100
3 millisieverts.

4 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
5 shall be construed to subject any research carried out by
6 the Director under the research program under this Act
7 to any limitations described in section 977(e) of the En-
8 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

9 (f) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to
10 be appropriated under this section. This Act shall be car-
11 ried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law.

Passed the House of Representatives January 7,
2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.