

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8315

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to award a financial prize to persons who successfully develop a system or device that makes enclosed sections of a building safer during the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. SPANBERGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to award a financial prize to persons who successfully develop a system or device that makes enclosed sections of a building safer during the COVID–19 public health emergency, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Indoor Spaces
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVID-19 TECHNOLOGY PRIZE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
4 retary”) shall establish a program to award a financial
5 prize to persons who successfully develop a system or de-
6 vice for use during the COVID-19 public health emer-
7 gency that meets the criteria under subsection (b).

8 (b) CRITERIA.—To be eligible to receive a prize under
9 this section, a person must develop a system or device that
10 meets the following:

11 (1) Inactivates or eliminates all traces of air-
12 borne SARS-CoV-2 from the air of an enclosed sec-
13 tion of a building.

14 (2) Decreases the rate of transmission of
15 SARS-CoV-2 in an enclosed section of a building to
16 a rate of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 that is com-
17 parable to an outdoor setting.

18 (3) Able to be installed in or service an enclosed
19 section of a building or the ventilation systems of a
20 building, including—

21 (A) schools;

22 (B) public buildings; and

23 (C) most types of buildings used as places
24 of work.

1 (4) With respect to public buildings, able to be
2 installed in or service not fewer than 150,000 build-
3 ings in not less than 6 months.

4 (5) Maintains or increases the cost of control-
5 ling the environment of a building by not more than
6 10 percent.

7 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
9 a board to advise the Secretary with respect to the
10 program established under subsection (a).

11 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The board shall be com-
12 posed of 5 members appointed by the Secretary, in-
13 cluding—

14 (A) a public health expert;

15 (B) an individual with experience in edu-
16 cation;

17 (C) an individual who represents small
18 businesses; and

19 (D) an engineer with expertise in public
20 health.

21 (d) FINANCIAL AWARD.—Based on the advice of the
22 board established under subsection (c), the Secretary shall
23 make each award under the program established under
24 subsection (a) in an amount equal to or less than
25 \$5,000,000.

1 (e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Federal Gov-
2 ernment may not acquire an intellectual property right in
3 any product or idea by virtue of the submission of such
4 product or idea in the prize competition under this section.

5 (f) COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—In
6 this section, the term “COVID–19 public health emer-
7 gency” means a public health emergency for which a dec-
8 laration is in effect under section 319 of the Public Health
9 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), with respect to COVID–
10 19.

11 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
13 appropriated to carry out this Act \$5,250,000 for
14 fiscal year 2021.

15 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
16 than \$250,000 of the amount appropriated under
17 paragraph (1) for a fiscal year may be used for ad-
18 ministrative expenses incurred in carrying out this
19 section.

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