

Calendar No. 584

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1427

[Report No. 116–291]

To amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to improve the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2019

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Reported by Mr. WICKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to improve the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, 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 “Global Leadership in
3 Advanced Manufacturing Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK FOR MANUFAC-**
5 **TURING INNOVATION PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **CENTERS FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.—**

7 Subsection (c) of section 34 of the National Institute of
8 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subparagraphs (B) and (C)(i) of para-
11 graph (1), by striking “and tool” both places it ap-
12 pears and inserting “tool development for microelec-
13 tronics, food manufacturing, superconductors, ad-
14 vanced battery technologies, robotics, advanced sen-
15 sors, quantum information science, supply chain
16 water optimization, and aeronautics and advanced
17 materials”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “and mi-
19 nority” and inserting “, minority, and veteran”; and

20 (3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “, but
21 such” and all that follows through “under subsection
22 (d)”.

23 (b) **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH AND**
24 **SUPPORT CENTERS FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVA-**
25 **TION.—**Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

26 (1) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

2 (i) in clause (i), by striking “; and”

3 and inserting a semicolon;

4 (ii) in clause (ii)—

5 (I) by inserting “, including ap-

6 propriate measures for assessing the

7 effectiveness of the activities funded

8 with regards to the center’s success in

9 advancing the current state of the ap-

10 plicable advanced manufacturing tech-

11 nology area such as technology readi-

12 ness level and manufacturing readi-

13 ness level,” after “measures”; and

14 (II) by striking the period at the

15 end; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

17 lowing:

18 “(iii) establish standards for the per-

19 formance of centers for manufacturing in-

20 novation that are based on the measures

21 developed under clause (ii); and

22 “(iv) for each center for manufac-

23 turing innovation supported by the award,

24 if any, once every 5 years, conduct an as-

25 sessment of the center to confirm whether

1 the performance of the center is meeting
 2 the standards for performance established
 3 under clause (iii).”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
 5 including the Department of Agriculture, the
 6 Department of Defense, the Department of
 7 Education, the Department of Energy, the De-
 8 partment of Labor, the Food and Drug Admin-
 9 istration, the National Aeronautics and Space
 10 Administration, the National Institutes of
 11 Health, and the National Science Foundation”
 12 after “manufacturing”; and

13 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

14 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “without
 15 the need for long-term Federal funding”;

16 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “signifi-
 17 cantly”;

18 (iii) in clause (v), by inserting “and to
 19 improve the domestic supply chain” after
 20 “technologies”; and

21 (iv) in clause (ix), by inserting “indus-
 22 trial, research, entrepreneurship, and
 23 other” after “leverage the”;

24 (2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No award of financial assistance may be made under paragraph (1) to support a center for manufacturing innovation that the Secretary finds under paragraph (4)(C) does not meet the standards for performance established under paragraph (4)(C)(iii).”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “large capital facilities or equipment purchases” and inserting “large capital facilities, equipment purchases, workforce development, or general operations”; and

(ii) by striking the second sentence; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) USE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance awarded under paragraph (1) may be used—

“(A) for the purposes described in such paragraph; or

1 “(B) to carry out Program-wide activities
 2 directed by the Secretary, such as activities tar-
 3 geting workforce development.”.

4 (c) FUNDING.—Subsection (c)(2) of such section is
 5 amended—

6 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
 7 follows:

8 “(A) NIST INDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL SERV-
 9 ICES ACCOUNT.—To the extent provided for in
 10 advance by appropriations Acts, the Secretary
 11 may use amounts appropriated to the Institute
 12 for Industrial Technical Services account to
 13 carry out this section as follows:

14 “(i) For each of the fiscal years 2015
 15 through 2019, an amount not to exceed
 16 \$5,000,000.

17 “(ii) For each of fiscal years 2020
 18 through 2030, such amounts as may be
 19 necessary to carry out this section.”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “through
 21 2024” and inserting “through 2019”.

22 (d) NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—Subsection (f) of
 23 such section is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) by inserting “coordinate with and;
2 as appropriate,” before “enter”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “including the De-
4 partment of Agriculture, the Department
5 of Defense, the Department of Education,
6 the Department of Energy, the Depart-
7 ment of Labor, the Food and Drug Admin-
8 istration, the National Aeronautics and
9 Space Administration, the National Insti-
10 tutes of Health, and the National Science
11 Foundation,” after “manufacturing”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;
13 and” and inserting a semicolon;

14 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as
15 subparagraph (J); and

16 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
17 the following:

18 “(F) to carry out pilot programs in col-
19 laboration with the centers for manufacturing
20 innovation such as a laboratory-embedded en-
21 trepreneurship program;

22 “(G) to provide support services and fund-
23 ing as necessary to promote workforce develop-
24 ment activities;

“(H) to coordinate with centers for manufacturing innovation to develop best practices for the membership agreements and coordination of similar project solicitations;

“(I) to collaborate with the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, industry, career and technical education schools, local community colleges, universities, and labor organizations to provide input for the development of national certifications for advanced manufacturing workforce skills in the technology areas of the centers for manufacturing innovation; and”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “State and local governments,” after “community colleges,”; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) LIAISONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to a manufacturing extension center established as

part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership to detail a liaison of the center to a center for manufacturing innovation to facilitate the support by the Partnership of at least the following:

“(I) Cybersecurity awareness and support services for small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

“(II) Assistance with workforce development.

“(III) Technology transfer for small and medium-sized manufacturers.

“(ii) SELECTION OF LIAISONS.—Selection of a liaison under this subparagraph shall be made in coordination with the applicable center for manufacturing innovation.”.

(e) REPORTING AND AUDITING.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2030”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by striking “2 years” and inserting
 2 “3 years”; and

3 (ii) by striking “2-year” and inserting
 4 “3-year”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “De-
 6 cember 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31,
 7 2030”.

8 (f) **EXPANSION.**—Subject to the availability of appro-
 9 priations, the Secretary of Commerce shall increase the
 10 number of centers for manufacturing innovation that par-
 11 ticipate in the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Pro-
 12 gram.

13 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

14 *This Act may be cited as the “Global Leadership in*
 15 *Advanced Manufacturing Act of 2019”.*

16 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK FOR MANUFAC-**
 17 **TURING INNOVATION PROGRAM.**

18 (a) **ALTERNATE PROGRAM NAME.**—Subsection (a) of
 19 section 34 of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
 20 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s) is amended by inserting “or
 21 as ‘Manufacturing USA’” after “as the ‘Network for Manu-
 22 facturing Innovation Program’”.

23 (b) **CENTERS FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.**—
 24 Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (B) and (C)(i) of paragraph (1), by striking “and tool development for microelectronics” both places it appears and inserting “tool development for microelectronics, food manufacturing, superconductors, advanced battery technologies, robotics, advanced sensors, quantum information science, supply chain water optimization, aeronautics and advanced materials, and graphene and graphene commercialization”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “and minority” and inserting “, minority, and veteran”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “, but such” and all that follows through “under subsection (d)”.

(c) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT CENTERS FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.*—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall award financial assistance to the following:

“(A) To a person or group of persons to assist the person or group of persons in planning, establishing, or supporting a center for manufacturing innovation.

1 “(B) *To a center for manufacturing innova-*
 2 *tion, including a center that was not established*
 3 *using Federal funds, to support workforce devel-*
 4 *opment, cross-center projects, and other efforts*
 5 *which support the purposes of the Program.”;*

6 (2) *in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), by striking*
 7 *“under paragraph (1)” each place it appears and in-*
 8 *serting “under paragraph (1)(A)”;*

9 (3) *in paragraph (4)—*

10 (A) *in subparagraph (C)—*

11 (i) *in clause (i), by striking “; and”*
 12 *and inserting a semicolon;*

13 (ii) *in clause (ii)—*

14 (I) *by inserting “, including ap-*
 15 *propriate measures for assessing the ef-*
 16 *fectiveness of the activities funded with*
 17 *regards to the center’s success in ad-*
 18 *vancing the current state of the appli-*
 19 *cable advanced manufacturing tech-*
 20 *nology area such as technology readi-*
 21 *ness level and manufacturing readiness*
 22 *level,” after “measures”; and*

23 (II) *by striking the period at the*
 24 *end and inserting a semicolon; and*

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(iii) establish standards for the per-
4 formance of centers for manufacturing inno-
5 vation that are based on the measures devel-
6 oped under clause (ii); and

7 “(iv) for each center for manufacturing
8 innovation supported by the award, 5 years
9 after the initial award and every 5 years
10 thereafter until Federal funding is discon-
11 tinued, conduct an assessment of the center
12 to confirm whether the performance of the
13 center is meeting the standards for perform-
14 ance established under clause (iii).”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
16 including, as appropriate, the Department of Ag-
17 riculture, the Department of Defense, the Depart-
18 ment of Education, the Department of Energy,
19 the Department of Labor, the Food and Drug
20 Administration, the National Aeronautics and
21 Space Administration, the National Institutes of
22 Health, and the National Science Foundation”
23 after “manufacturing”; and

24 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

1 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “without
2 the need for long-term Federal funding”;

3 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “signifi-
4 cantly”;

5 (iii) in clause (v), by inserting “and to
6 improve the domestic supply chain” after
7 “technologies”; and

8 (iv) in clause (ix), by inserting “indus-
9 trial, research, entrepreneurship, and other”
10 after “leverage the”;

11 (4) in paragraph (5)—

12 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
13 serting the following:

14 “(A) *PERFORMANCE DEFICIENCY.*—

15 “(i) *NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY.*—If the
16 Secretary finds that a center for manufac-
17 turing innovation does not meet the stand-
18 ards for performance established under
19 clause (iii) of paragraph (4)(C) during an
20 assessment pursuant to clause (iv) of such
21 paragraph, the Secretary shall notify the
22 center of any deficiencies in the perform-
23 ance of the center and provide the center
24 one year to remedy such deficiencies.

1 “(ii) *FAILURE TO REMEDY*.—If a cen-
 2 ter for manufacturing innovation fails to
 3 remedy a deficiency identified under clause
 4 (i) or to show significant improvement in
 5 performance one year after notification of a
 6 performance deficiency identified under
 7 clause (i), the Secretary shall notify the cen-
 8 ter that the center is ineligible for further fi-
 9 nancial assistance awarded under para-
 10 graph (1) .”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (B), in the first sen-
 12 tence, by striking “large capital facilities or
 13 equipment purchases” and inserting “satellite
 14 centers, large capital facilities, equipment pur-
 15 chases, workforce development, or general oper-
 16 ations”; and

17 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and
 18 (5) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(6) *USE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE*.—Financial
 20 assistance awarded under paragraph (1)(B) may be
 21 used to carry out Program-wide activities directed by
 22 the Secretary, such as activities targeting workforce
 23 development.”.

24 (d) *FUNDING*.—Subsection (e)(2) of such section is
 25 amended—

1 (1) *by amending subparagraph (A) to read as*
 2 *follows:*

3 “(A) *NIST INDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL SERV-*
 4 *ICES ACCOUNT.—To the extent provided for in*
 5 *advance by appropriations Acts, the Secretary*
 6 *may use amounts appropriated to the Institute*
 7 *for Industrial Technical Services account to*
 8 *carry out this section as follows:*

9 “(i) *For each of the fiscal years 2015*
 10 *through 2019, an amount not to exceed*
 11 *\$5,000,000.*

12 “(ii) *For each of fiscal years 2020*
 13 *through 2030, such amounts as may be nec-*
 14 *essary to carry out this section.”; and*

15 (2) *in subparagraph (B), by striking “through*
 16 *2024” and inserting “through 2019”.*

17 (e) *NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—Subsection (f) of*
 18 *such section is amended—*

19 (1) *in paragraph (2)—*

20 (A) *in subparagraph (B)—*

21 (i) *by inserting “coordinate with and,*
 22 *as appropriate,” before “enter”; and*

23 (ii) *by inserting “including the De-*
 24 *partment of Agriculture, the Department of*
 25 *Defense, the Department of Education, the*

1 *Department of Energy, the Department of*
2 *Labor, the Food and Drug Administration,*
3 *the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-*
4 *ministration, the National Institutes of*
5 *Health, and the National Science Founda-*
6 *tion,” after “manufacturing,”;*

7 *(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;*
8 *and” and inserting a semicolon;*

9 *(C) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as*
10 *subparagraph (J); and*

11 *(D) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the*
12 *following:*

13 *“(F) to carry out pilot programs in collabo-*
14 *ration with the centers for manufacturing inno-*
15 *vation such as a laboratory-embedded entrepre-*
16 *neurship program;*

17 *“(G) to provide support services and fund-*
18 *ing as necessary to promote workforce develop-*
19 *ment activities;*

20 *“(H) to coordinate with centers for manu-*
21 *facturing innovation to develop best practices for*
22 *the membership agreements and coordination of*
23 *similar project solicitations;*

24 *“(I) to collaborate with the Department of*
25 *Labor, the Department of Education, industry,*

1 *career and technical education schools, local com-*
 2 *munity colleges, universities, and labor organiza-*
 3 *tions to provide input for the development of na-*
 4 *tional certifications for advanced manufacturing*
 5 *workforce skills in the technology areas of the*
 6 *centers for manufacturing innovation; and”;*

7 *(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “State, Trib-*
 8 *al, and local governments,” after “community col-*
 9 *leges,”; and*

10 *(3) in paragraph (5)—*

11 *(A) by striking “The Secretary” and insert-*
 12 *ing the following:*

13 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and*

14 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

15 *“(B) LIAISONS.—*

16 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may*
 17 *provide financial assistance to a manufac-*
 18 *turing extension center established as part*
 19 *of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension*
 20 *Partnership to support the purposes of the*
 21 *Program by providing services in one or*
 22 *more of the following areas:*

23 *“(I) Cybersecurity awareness and*
 24 *support services for small- and me-*
 25 *dium-sized manufacturers.*

1 “(II) Assistance with workforce
2 development.

3 “(III) Technology transfer for
4 small and medium-sized manufactur-
5 ers.

6 “(IV) Such other areas as the Sec-
7 retary determines appropriate to sup-
8 port the purposes of the Program.

9 “(ii) SUPPORT.—Support under clause
10 (i) may include the designation of a liai-
11 son.”.

12 (f) REPORTING AND AUDITING.—Subsection (g) of such
13 section is amended—

14 (1) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking
15 “under subsection (d)(1)” and inserting “under sub-
16 section (d)(1)(A)”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “December
18 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2030”; and

19 (3) in paragraph (3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (i) by striking “2 years” and inserting
22 “3 years”; and

23 (ii) by striking “2-year” and inserting
24 “3-year”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “De-
 2 cember 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31,
 3 2030”.

4 (g) *EXPANSION.*—Subject to the availability of appro-
 5 priations, the Secretary of Commerce shall increase the
 6 number of centers for manufacturing innovation that par-
 7 ticipate in the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Pro-
 8 gram.

9 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL INNOVATION PROGRAM.**

10 Section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
 11 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722) is amended to read
 12 as follows:

13 **“SEC. 27. REGIONAL INNOVATION PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

15 “(1) *ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.*—The term
 16 ‘eligible recipient’ means—

17 “(A) a State;

18 “(B) an Indian tribe;

19 “(C) a city or other political subdivision of
 20 a State;

21 “(D) an entity that is a nonprofit organiza-
 22 tion, an institution of higher education, a pub-
 23 lic-private partnership, a science or research
 24 park, a Federal laboratory, a venture develop-
 25 ment organization, or an economic development

1 *organization or similar entity that is focused*
 2 *primarily on improving science, technology, in-*
 3 *novation, or entrepreneurship; or*

4 *“(E) a consortium of any of the entities de-*
 5 *scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (D).*

6 *“(2) REGIONAL INNOVATION INITIATIVE.—The*
 7 *term ‘regional innovation initiative’ means a geo-*
 8 *graphically-bounded public or nonprofit activity or*
 9 *program to address issues in the local innovation sys-*
 10 *tems in order to—*

11 *“(A) increase the success of innovation-driv-*
 12 *en industry;*

13 *“(B) strengthen the competitiveness of in-*
 14 *dustry through new product innovation and new*
 15 *technology adoption;*

16 *“(C) improve the pace of market readiness*
 17 *and overall commercialization of innovative re-*
 18 *search;*

19 *“(D) enhance the overall innovation capac-*
 20 *ity and long-term resilience of the region; and*

21 *“(E) leverage the region’s unique competi-*
 22 *tive strengths to stimulate innovation and to cre-*
 23 *ate jobs.*

24 *“(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means one of the*
 25 *several States of the United States, the District of Co-*

1 *lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the*
 2 *United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American*
 3 *Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana*
 4 *Islands, or any other territory or possession of the*
 5 *United States.*

6 “(4) *VENTURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.*—
 7 *The term ‘venture development organization’ means a*
 8 *State or nonprofit organization that contributes to re-*
 9 *gional or sector-based economic prosperity by pro-*
 10 *viding services for the purposes of—*

11 “(A) *accelerating the commercialization of*
 12 *research;*

13 “(B) *strengthening the competitive position*
 14 *of industry through the development, commercial*
 15 *adoption, or deployment of technology; and*

16 “(C) *providing financial grants, loans, or*
 17 *direct financial investment to commercialize*
 18 *technology.*

19 “(b) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
 20 *a regional innovation program to encourage and support*
 21 *the development of regional innovation strategies designed*
 22 *to increase innovation-driven economic opportunity within*
 23 *their respective regions.*

24 “(c) *REGIONAL INNOVATION GRANTS.*—

1 “(1) *AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.*—As part of
 2 the program established pursuant to subsection (b),
 3 the Secretary may award grants, on a competitive
 4 basis, to eligible recipients for activities designed to
 5 develop and support a regional innovation initiative.

6 “(2) *PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.*—A grant award-
 7 ed under this subsection shall be used for multiple ac-
 8 tivities determined appropriate by the Secretary, in-
 9 cluding—

10 “(A) *improving the connectedness and stra-*
 11 *tegic orientation of the region through planning,*
 12 *technical assistance, and communication among*
 13 *participants of a regional innovation initiative;*

14 “(B) *attracting additional participants to a*
 15 *regional innovation initiative;*

16 “(C) *increasing the availability and invest-*
 17 *ment of private and philanthropic financing*
 18 *that supports innovation-based business ventures;*

19 “(D) *completing the research, development*
 20 *and introduction of new products, processes, and*
 21 *services into the commercial market;*

22 “(E) *increasing the number of full-time*
 23 *equivalent employment opportunities within in-*
 24 *novation-based business ventures in the geo-*
 25 *graphic region; and*

1 “(F) achieving quantifiable, positive bene-
 2 fits to, or measurable enhancements for, the eco-
 3 nomic performance of the geographic region.

4 “(3) *RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES*.—Grants awarded
 5 under this subsection may not be used to pay for—

6 “(A) costs related to the recruitment, in-
 7 ducement, or associated financial or tangible in-
 8 centives that might be offered to relocate an ex-
 9 isting business from a geographic area to another
 10 geographic area; or

11 “(B) costs associated with offsetting reve-
 12 nues forgone by one or more taxing authorities
 13 through tax incentives, tax increment financing,
 14 special improvement districts, tax abatements for
 15 private development within designated zones or
 16 geographic areas, or other reduction in revenues
 17 resulting from tax credits affecting the geo-
 18 graphic region of the eligible recipients.

19 “(4) *APPLICATIONS*.—

20 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—An eligible recipient
 21 shall submit an application to the Secretary at
 22 such time, in such manner, and containing such
 23 information and assurances as the Secretary
 24 may require.

1 “(B) COMPONENTS.—Each application sub-
2 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

3 “(i) describe the regional innovation
4 initiative;

5 “(ii) indicate whether the regional in-
6 novation initiative is supported by the pri-
7 vate sector, State and local governments,
8 and other relevant stakeholders;

9 “(iii) identify what activities the re-
10 gional innovation initiative will undertake;

11 “(iv) describe the expected outcomes of
12 the regional innovation initiative and how
13 the eligible recipient will measure progress
14 toward those outcomes;

15 “(v) indicate whether the participants
16 in the regional innovation initiative have
17 access to, or contribute to, a well-trained
18 workforce and other innovation assets that
19 are critical to the successful outcomes speci-
20 fied in the application;

21 “(vi) indicate whether the participants
22 in the regional innovation initiative are ca-
23 pable of attracting additional funds from
24 non-Federal sources; and

1 “(vii) if appropriate for the activities
 2 proposed in the application, analyze the
 3 likelihood that the participants in the re-
 4 gional innovation initiative will be able to
 5 sustain activities after grant funds received
 6 under this subsection have been expended.

7 “(C) *FEEDBACK.*—The Secretary shall pro-
 8 vide feedback to program applicants that are not
 9 awarded grants to help them improve future ap-
 10 plications.

11 “(D) *SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.*—The Sec-
 12 retary shall give special consideration to—

13 “(i) applications proposing to include
 14 workforce or training related activities in
 15 their regional innovation initiative from el-
 16 igible recipients who agree to collaborate
 17 with local workforce investment area boards;
 18 and

19 “(ii) applications from regions that
 20 contain communities negatively impacted
 21 by trade.

22 “(5) *COST SHARE.*—The Secretary may not pro-
 23 vide more than 50 percent of the total cost of any ac-
 24 tivity funded under this subsection.

25 “(6) *OUTREACH TO RURAL COMMUNITIES.*—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall*
 2 *conduct outreach to public and private sector en-*
 3 *tities in rural communities to encourage those*
 4 *entities to participate in regional innovation*
 5 *initiatives under this subsection.*

6 “(B) *JUSTIFICATION.*—*As part of the pro-*
 7 *gram established pursuant to subsection (b), not*
 8 *less frequently than once each year for the dura-*
 9 *tion of the program as authorized, the Secretary,*
 10 *acting through the Assistant Secretary of Com-*
 11 *merce for Economic Development, shall submit to*
 12 *Congress an annual report that explains the bal-*
 13 *ance in the allocation of grants to eligible recipi-*
 14 *ents under this subsection between rural and*
 15 *urban areas.*

16 “(7) *FUNDING.*—*The Secretary may accept funds*
 17 *from other Federal agencies to support grants and ac-*
 18 *tivities under this subsection.*

19 “(d) *REGIONAL INNOVATION RESEARCH AND INFOR-*
 20 *MATION PROGRAM.*—

21 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*As part of the program es-*
 22 *tablished pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary*
 23 *shall establish a regional innovation research and in-*
 24 *formation program—*

1 “(A) to gather, analyze, and disseminate in-
 2 formation on best practices for regional innova-
 3 tion initiatives, including information relating
 4 to how innovation, productivity, and economic
 5 development can be maximized through such
 6 strategies;

7 “(B) to provide technical assistance, includ-
 8 ing through the development of technical assist-
 9 ance guides, for the development and implemen-
 10 tation of regional innovation initiatives;

11 “(C) to support the development of relevant
 12 metrics and measurement standards to evaluate
 13 regional innovation initiatives, including the ex-
 14 tent to which such strategies stimulate innova-
 15 tion, productivity, and economic development;
 16 and

17 “(D) to collect and make available data on
 18 regional innovation initiatives in the United
 19 States, including data on—

20 “(i) the size, specialization, and com-
 21 petitiveness of regional innovation initia-
 22 tives;

23 “(ii) the regional domestic product
 24 contribution, total jobs and earnings by key
 25 occupations, establishment size, nature of

1 *specialization, patents, Federal research*
 2 *and development spending, and other rel-*
 3 *evant information for regional innovation*
 4 *initiatives; and*

5 “(iii) *supply chain product and service*
 6 *flows within and between regional innova-*
 7 *tion initiatives.*

8 “(2) *RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary may*
 9 *award research grants on a competitive basis to sup-*
 10 *port and further the goals of the program established*
 11 *under this section.*

12 “(3) *DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—Data*
 13 *and analysis compiled by the Secretary under the*
 14 *program established in this subsection shall be made*
 15 *available to other Federal agencies, State and local*
 16 *governments, and nonprofit and for-profit entities.*

17 “(4) *REGIONAL INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.—*
 18 *The Secretary shall incorporate data and analysis re-*
 19 *lating to any grant awarded under subsection (c) into*
 20 *the program established under this subsection.*

21 “(e) *INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—*

22 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent*
 23 *practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the activi-*
 24 *ties carried out under this section are coordinated*
 25 *with, and do not duplicate the efforts of, other pro-*

grams at the Department of Commerce or at other Federal agencies.

“(2) *COLLABORATION.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall explore and pursue collaboration with other Federal agencies, including through multi-agency funding opportunities, on regional innovation strategies.

“(B) *SMALL BUSINESSES.*—The Secretary shall ensure that such collaboration with Federal agencies prioritizes the needs and challenges of small businesses.

“(f) *EVALUATION.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 5 years after Congress first appropriates funds to carry out this section, the Secretary shall competitively award a contract with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of programs established under this section.

“(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) an assessment of whether the program is achieving its goals;

“(B) the program’s efficacy in providing awards to geographically diverse entities;

1 “(C) *any recommendations for how the pro-*
2 *gram may be improved; and*

3 “(D) *a recommendation as to whether the*
4 *program should be continued or terminated.*

5 “(g) *REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 5*
6 *years after the first grant is awarded under subsection (c),*
7 *and every 5 years thereafter until 5 years after the last*
8 *grant recipient completes the regional innovation initiative*
9 *for which such grant was awarded, the Secretary shall sub-*
10 *mit a report to Congress that describes the outcome of each*
11 *regional innovation initiative that was completed during*
12 *the previous 5 years.*

13 “(h) *FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated by Con-*
14 *gress for economic development assistance authorized under*
15 *section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation*
16 *Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722), the Secretary may use up*
17 *to \$50,000,000 in each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024*
18 *to carry out this section.”.*

Calendar No. 584

116TH CONGRESS
2D Session

S. 1427

[Report No. 116-291]

A BILL

To amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to improve the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, and for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Reported with an amendment