

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7949

To amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to provide for grants to support plant and microbial biology research with potential relevance to agriculture, food, or biotechnology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2026

Mr. RILEY of New York (for himself and Mr. BAIRD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to provide for grants to support plant and microbial biology research with potential relevance to agriculture, food, or biotechnology, 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 “Plant Biological Re-
5 search at the National Science Foundation Act” or the
6 “NSF Plant Biology Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDAMENTAL PLANT BIOLOGY RESEARCH.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Science Foundation
3 Authorization Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the
4 end the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 27. FUNDAMENTAL PLANT BIOLOGY RESEARCH.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award grants
7 on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of
8 higher education, nonprofit organizations, private sector
9 entities, and Federal, State, local, or Tribal governments,
10 or a consortia of such institutions, entities, or govern-
11 ments, to support plant and microbial biology research
12 with potential relevance to agriculture, food, or bio-
13 technology, including relating to the following:

14 “(1) Fundamental research regarding plant bi-
15 ology.

16 “(2) Tools, resources, and technology that fur-
17 ther enable plant biology.

18 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Director
20 \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031
21 to carry out this section.”.

22 (b) DEFINITION AMENDMENT.—Section 4 of the Na-
23 tional Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 is
24 amended by—

25 (1) redesignating paragraphs (13) through (16)
26 as paragraphs (14) through (17), respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
2 lowing new paragraph:

3 “(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
4 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization de-
5 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 15
7 501(a) of such Code.”.

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