

§ 19133. Initiative coordination**(a) Interagency committee**

The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate an interagency committee to coordinate activities of the Initiative as appropriate, which shall be co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall select an additional co-chairperson from among the members of the interagency committee. The interagency committee shall oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Initiative. The interagency committee shall carry out the following:

(1) Provide for interagency coordination of Federal engineering biology research, development, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Initiative.

(2) Establish and periodically update goals and priorities for the Initiative.

(3) Develop, not later than 12 months after August 9, 2022, and update every five years thereafter, a strategic plan submitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate that—

(A) guides the activities of the Initiative for purposes of meeting the goals and priorities established under (and updated pursuant to) paragraph (2); and

(B) describes—

(i) the Initiative's support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary engineering biology research and development;

(ii) the Initiative's support for education and public outreach activities;

(iii) the Initiative's support for research and other activities on ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology, including—

(I) an applied biorisk management research plan;

(II) recommendations for integrating security into biological data access and international reciprocity agreements;

(III) recommendations for manufacturing restructuring to support engineering biology research, development, and scaling-up initiatives; and

(IV) an evaluation of existing biosecurity governance policies, guidance, and directives for the purposes of creating an adaptable, evidence-based framework to respond to emerging biosecurity challenges created by advances in engineering biology;

(iv) how the Initiative will contribute to moving results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society and United States competitiveness; and

(v) how the Initiative will measure and track the contributions of engineering bi-

ology to United States economic growth and other societal indicators.

(4) Develop a national genomic sequencing strategy to ensure engineering biology research fully leverages plant, animal, and microbe biodiversity, as appropriate and in a manner that does not compromise economic competitiveness, national security, or the privacy or security of human genetic information, to enhance long-term innovation and competitiveness in engineering biology in the United States.

(5) Develop a plan to utilize Federal programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as described in section 638 of title 15), in support of the activities described in section 19132(b)(3) of this title.

(6) In carrying out this section, take into consideration the recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 19134 of this title, the results of the workshop convened under section 19132 of this title, existing reports on related topics, and the views of academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups.

(b) Quinquennial report

Beginning with fiscal year 2023 and every five years thereafter for ten years, the interagency committee shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes the following:

(1) A summarized agency budget in support of the Initiative for the current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in the Program, and for the development and acquisition of any research facilities and instrumentation.

(2) An assessment of how Federal agencies are implementing the plan described in subsection (a)(3), including the following:

(A) A description of the amount and number of awards made under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as described in section 638 of title 15) in support of the Initiative.

(B) A description of the amount and number of projects funded under joint solicitations by a collaboration of not fewer than two agencies participating in the Initiative.

(C) A description of effects of newly-funded projects by the Initiative.

(c) Initiative Coordination Office**(1) In general**

The President shall establish an Initiative Coordination Office, with a Director and full-time staff, which shall—

(A) provide technical and administrative support to the interagency committee and

the advisory committee established under subsection (a) and section 19134 of this title;

(B) serve as the point of contact on Federal engineering biology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State governments, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

(C) oversee interagency coordination of the Initiative, including by encouraging and supporting joint agency solicitation and selection of applications for funding of activities under the Initiative, as appropriate;

(D) conduct public outreach, including dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee, as appropriate;

(E) serve as the coordinator of ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal input; and

(F) promote access to, and early application of, the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Initiative activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government, and to United States industry, including startup companies.

(2) Funding

The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with each participating Federal department and agency, as appropriate, shall develop and annually update an estimate of the funds necessary to carry out the activities of the Initiative Coordination Office and submit such estimate with an agreed summary of contributions from each agency to Congress as part of the President's annual budget request to Congress.

(3) Termination

The Initiative Coordination Office established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after August 9, 2022.

(d) Rule of construction

Nothing in this section may be construed to alter the policies, processes, or practices of individual Federal agencies in effect on the day before August 9, 2022, relating to the conduct of biomedical research and advanced development, including the solicitation and review of extramural research proposals.

(Pub. L. 117–167, div. B, title IV, §10403, Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1602.)

§ 19134. Advisory committee on engineering biology research and development

(a) In general

The agency co-chair of the interagency committee established under section 19133 of this title shall, in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, designate or establish an advisory committee on engineering biology research and development (in this section referred to as the “advisory committee”) to be composed of not fewer than 12 members, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry, and nongovernmental entities, who are qualified to provide advice on the Initiative.

(b) Assessment

The advisory committee shall assess the following:

(1) The current state of United States competitiveness in engineering biology, including the scope and scale of United States investments in engineering biology research and development in the international context.

(2) Current market barriers to commercialization of engineering biology products, processes, and tools in the United States.

(3) Progress made in implementing the Initiative.

(4) The need to revise the Initiative.

(5) The balance of activities and funding across the Initiative.

(6) Whether the strategic plan developed or updated by the interagency committee established under section 19133 of this title is helping to maintain United States leadership in engineering biology.

(7) Whether ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues are adequately addressed by the Initiative.

(c) Reports

Beginning not later than two years after August 9, 2022, and not less frequently than once every five years thereafter, the advisory committee shall submit to the President, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report on the following:

(1) The findings of the advisory committee's assessment under subsection (b).

(2) The advisory committee's recommendations for ways to improve the Initiative.

(d) Application of Federal Advisory Committee Act

Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)¹ shall not apply to the advisory committee.

(e) Termination

The advisory committee established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after August 9, 2022.

(Pub. L. 117–167, div. B, title IV, §10404, Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1605.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is section 14 of Pub. L. 92–463, which was set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and was repealed and restated as section 1013 of Title 5 by Pub. L. 117–286, §§3(a), 7, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4204, 4361.

§ 19135. Agency activities

(a) National Science Foundation

As part of the Initiative, the National Science Foundation shall carry out the following:

¹ See References in Text note below.