

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4675

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a low-dose radiation basic research program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2017

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. WEBER of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a low-dose radiation basic research program.

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 “Low-Dose Radiation  
5 Research Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle G of title IX of the En-  
8 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311 et seq.) is  
9 amended by inserting after section 977 the following new  
10 section:

1 **“SEC. 977A. LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a  
3 basic research program on low-dose radiation to—

4 “(1) enhance the scientific understanding of,  
5 and reduce uncertainties associated with, the effects  
6 of exposure to low-dose radiation; and

7 “(2) inform improved risk-assessment and risk-  
8 management methods with respect to such radiation.

9 “(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the  
10 program required under subsection (a), the Secretary  
11 shall—

12 “(1) formulate scientific goals for low-dose radi-  
13 ation basic research in the United States;

14 “(2) identify ongoing scientific challenges for  
15 understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radi-  
16 ation on biological systems;

17 “(3) develop a long-term strategic and  
18 prioritized basic research agenda to address such  
19 scientific challenges in coordination with other re-  
20 search efforts;

21 “(4) leverage the collective body of knowledge  
22 from existing low-dose radiation research; and

23 “(5) engage with other Federal agencies, re-  
24 search communities, and potential users of informa-  
25 tion produced under this section, including institu-

1 tions concerning radiation research, medical physics,  
2 radiology, health physics, and emergency response.

3 “(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program,  
4 the Secretary, in coordination with the Physical Science  
5 Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology  
6 Council, shall—

7 “(1) support the directives under section 106 of  
8 the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act  
9 (42 U.S.C. 6601 note);

10 “(2) ensure that the Office of Science of the  
11 Department of Energy consults with the National  
12 Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National  
13 Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection  
14 Agency, the Department of Defense, the Nuclear  
15 Regulatory Commission, and the Department of  
16 Homeland Security;

17 “(3) advise and assist the National Science and  
18 Technology Council on policies and initiatives in ra-  
19 diation biology, including enhancing scientific knowl-  
20 edge of the effects of low-dose radiation on biological  
21 systems to improve radiation risk-assessment and  
22 risk-management methods; and

23 “(4) identify opportunities to stimulate inter-  
24 national cooperation relating to low-dose radiation

1 and leverage research and knowledge from sources  
2 outside of the United States.

3 “(d) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 180 days  
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
5 transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
6 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
7 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a 4-year  
8 research plan that identifies and prioritizes basic research  
9 needs relating to low-dose radiation. In developing such  
10 plan, the Secretary shall incorporate the components de-  
11 scribed in subsection (b).

12 “(e) DEFINITION OF LOW-DOSE RADIATION.—In  
13 this section, the term ‘low-dose radiation’ means a radi-  
14 ation dose of less than 100 millisieverts.

15 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
16 tion shall be construed to subject any research carried out  
17 by the Secretary for the program under this section to  
18 any limitations described in 977(e) of the Energy Policy  
19 Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

20 “(g) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out this  
21 section, the Secretary is authorized to make available from  
22 funds provided to the Biological and Environmental Re-  
23 search Program—

24 “(1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

25 “(2) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

1           “(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

2           “(4) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.”.

3           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
4 tents for subtitle G of title IX of the Energy Policy Act  
5 of 2005 is amended by inserting after the item relating  
6 to section 977 the following:

“977A. Low-dose radiation research program.”.

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