

Union Calendar No.

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1119

[Report No. 114-]

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MARCH --, 2015

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 26, 2015]

A BILL

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, 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 “Research and Develop-*
5 *ment Efficiency Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

7 *(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress*
8 *that—*

9 *(1) high and increasing administrative burdens*
10 *and costs in Federal research administration, par-*
11 *ticularly in the higher education sector where most*
12 *federally sponsored research is performed, are eroding*
13 *funds available to carry out basic scientific research;*

14 *(2) progress has been made over the last decade*
15 *in streamlining the pre-award grant application*
16 *process through Grants.gov, the Federal Government’s*
17 *website portal;*

18 *(3) post-award administrative costs have grown*
19 *as Federal research agencies have continued to impose*
20 *agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements*
21 *on researchers and research institutions;*

22 *(4) facilities and administration costs at re-*
23 *search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total*
24 *value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated*
25 *that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annually*

1 *in federally funded research is consumed by paper-*
2 *work and other administrative processes required by*
3 *Federal agencies; and*

4 *(5) it is a matter of critical importance to Amer-*
5 *ican competitiveness that administrative costs of fed-*
6 *erally funded research be streamlined so that a higher*
7 *proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into direct re-*
8 *search activities.*

9 *(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science*
10 *and Technology Policy shall establish a working group*
11 *under the authority of the National Science and Technology*
12 *Council, to include the Office of Management and Budget.*
13 *The working group shall be responsible for reviewing Fed-*
14 *eral regulations affecting research and research universities*
15 *and making recommendations on how to—*

16 *(1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-*
17 *cative Federal regulations and reporting require-*
18 *ments;*

19 *(2) minimize the regulatory burden on United*
20 *States institutions of higher education performing*
21 *federally funded research while maintaining account-*
22 *ability for Federal tax dollars; and*

23 *(3) identify and update specific regulations to*
24 *refocus on performance-based goals rather than on*
25 *process while still meeting the desired outcome.*

1 (c) *STAKEHOLDER INPUT.*—*In carrying out the re-*
2 *sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group shall*
3 *take into account input and recommendations from non-*
4 *Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and non-*
5 *federally funded researchers, institutions of higher edu-*
6 *cation, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,*
7 *nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small*
8 *businesses, federally funded research and development cen-*
9 *ters, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, effi-*
10 *ciency, and accountability in the performance of scientific*
11 *research.*

12 (d) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date of*
13 *enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years,*
14 *the Director shall report to the Committee on Science,*
15 *Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and*
16 *the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*
17 *of the Senate on what steps have been taken to carry out*
18 *the recommendations of the working group established*
19 *under subsection (b).*