

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4675

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Low-Dose Radiation
3 Research Act of 2018”.

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

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

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

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

12 “(1) enhance the scientific understanding of,
13 and reduce uncertainties associated with, the effects
14 of exposure to low-dose radiation; and

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

17 “(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the
18 program required under subsection (a), the Secretary
19 shall—

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

22 “(2) identify ongoing scientific challenges for
23 understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radi-
24 ation on biological systems;

25 “(3) develop a long-term strategic and
26 prioritized basic research agenda to address such

1 scientific challenges in coordination with other re-
2 search efforts;

3 “(4) identify and, to the extent possible, quan-
4 tify, potential monetary and health-related benefits
5 to Federal agencies, the general public, industry, re-
6 search communities, and other users of information
7 produced by such research program;

8 “(5) leverage the collective body of knowledge
9 from existing low-dose radiation research; and

10 “(6) engage with other Federal agencies, re-
11 search communities, and potential users of informa-
12 tion produced under this section, including institu-
13 tions concerning radiation research, medical physics,
14 radiology, health physics, and emergency response.

15 “(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program,
16 the Secretary, in coordination with the Physical Science
17 Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology
18 Council, shall—

19 “(1) support the directives under section 106 of
20 the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 6601 note);

22 “(2) ensure that the Office of Science of the
23 Department of Energy consults with the National
24 Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National
25 Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection

1 Agency, the Department of Defense, the Nuclear
2 Regulatory Commission, and the Department of
3 Homeland Security;

4 “(3) advise and assist the National Science and
5 Technology Council on policies and initiatives in ra-
6 diation biology, including enhancing scientific knowl-
7 edge of the effects of low-dose radiation on biological
8 systems to improve radiation risk-assessment and
9 risk-management methods; and

10 “(4) identify opportunities to stimulate inter-
11 national cooperation relating to low-dose radiation
12 and leverage research and knowledge from sources
13 outside of the United States.

14 “(d) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
16 transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
17 nology of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a 4-year
19 research plan that identifies and prioritizes basic research
20 needs relating to low-dose radiation. In developing such
21 plan, the Secretary shall incorporate the components de-
22 scribed in subsection (b).

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

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

6 “(g) **FUNDING.**—For purposes of carrying out this
7 section, the Secretary is authorized to make available from
8 funds provided to the Biological and Environmental Re-
9 search Program—

10 “(1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

11 “(2) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

12 “(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

13 “(4) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.”.

14 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of con-
15 tents for subtitle G of title IX of the Energy Policy Act
16 of 2005 is amended by inserting after the item relating
17 to section 977 the following:

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

18 **SEC. 3. SPENDING LIMITATION.**

19 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
20 priated to carry out this Act and the amendments made
21 by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be

1 carried out using amounts otherwise available for such
2 purpose.

Passed the House of Representatives February 13,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.