

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, 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 “**[To Be Supplied]**
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERO-**
2 **NAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RE-**
3 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this
6 section referred to as the “Secretary”) and the Adminis-
7 trator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
8 tion (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”)
9 shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research
10 and development activities focused on the joint advance-
11 ment of Department of Energy and National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration mission requirements and prior-
13 ities.

14 (b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
15 retary and the Administrator shall coordinate the activi-
16 ties under subsection (a) through the establishment of a
17 memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate
18 interagency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement,
19 as the case may be, shall require the use of a competitive,
20 merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from
21 Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of
22 higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appro-
23 priate entities.

24 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities
25 under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator
26 may—

1 (1) conduct collaborative research in a variety
2 of focus areas, such as—

3 (A) propulsion systems and components,
4 including nuclear thermal and nuclear electric,
5 for the Moon and Mars, including radioisotope
6 power systems, thermoelectric generators, ad-
7 vanced nuclear fuels, and heater units;

8 (B) modeling and simulation, machine
9 learning, data assimilation, large scale data
10 analytics, and predictive analysis in order to op-
11 timize algorithms for mission-related purposes;

12 (C) fundamental high energy physics, in-
13 cluding regarding dark energy and dark matter,
14 in collaboration with the program authorized
15 under section 305 of the Department of Energy
16 Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C.
17 18643);

18 (D) fundamental earth and environmental
19 sciences, including in collaboration with the pro-
20 gram authorized under section 306 of the De-
21 partment of Energy Research and Innovation
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

23 (E) radiation health effects, including in
24 collaboration with the program authorized
25 under section 306 of the Department of Energy

1 Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C.
2 18644);

3 (F) quantum information sciences, includ-
4 ing quantum computing and quantum network
5 infrastructure, including in collaboration with
6 the programs authorized under sections 403
7 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act
8 (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

9 (G) nanotechnology;

10 (H) scientific observations of the early uni-
11 verse from the Moon;

12 (I) planetary defense from potentially haz-
13 ardous asteroids and near-Earth objects;

14 (J) sensor and satellite development;

15 (K) space situational awareness; and

16 (L) fundamental heliophysics;

17 (2) develop methods to accommodate large vol-
18 untary data sets on space and aeronautical informa-
19 tion on high-performance computing systems with
20 variable quality and scale;

21 (3) promote collaboration, open community-
22 based development, and data and information shar-
23 ing between Federal agencies, National Labora-
24 tories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit in-
25 stitutions, and other appropriate entities by pro-

1 viding the necessary access and secure data and in-
2 formation transfer capabilities; and

3 (4) support research infrastructure as the Sec-
4 retary and Administrator determine necessary.

5 (d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities
6 under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator
7 are authorized to—

8 (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between
9 the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics
10 and Space Administration, and other entities in
11 order to maximize the effectiveness of research and
12 development; and

13 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
14 appropriate.

15 (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
16 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the
17 Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science,
18 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
19 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and
20 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
21 of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

22 (1) Interagency coordination between each Fed-
23 eral agency involved in the research and development
24 activities carried out under this section.

1 (2) Potential opportunities to expand the tech-
2 nical capabilities of the Department of Energy and
3 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

4 (3) Collaborative research achievements.

5 (4) Areas of future mutually beneficial suc-
6 cesses.

7 (5) Continuation of coordination activities be-
8 tween the Department of Energy and the National
9 Aeronautics and Space Administration.

10 (f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized
11 under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent
12 with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Develop-
13 ment, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as divi-
14 sion B of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167;
15 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).