



## **H.R. 4521, the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021**

### **Section 1: Short Title**

**Section 2: Findings.** Provides Findings for the legislation.

**Section 3: Definitions.** Defines terms in the legislation

### **Section 4: National Engineering Biology Research and Development Program.**

- (a) In General** – Establishes a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Program to advance engineering biology research; expand the number of engineering biology researchers; accelerate the translation and commercialization of engineering biology; and improve interagency planning and coordination of federal engineering biology research initiatives.
- (b) Activities** – Describes the activities to be supported under the Initiative, including support for research, tools and technologies to advance research, databases, education, and translation and commercialization of research.
- (c) Expanding Participation** – Requires outreach to minority serving institutions and primarily undergraduate institutions.
- (d) Ethical, Legal, Environmental, Safety, Security, and Societal Issues** - Describes how the Program should take into account a wide range of potential societal issues, including through research focused on those issues, public engagement, and compliance with all applicable laws.

**Section 5: Initiative Coordination.** Designates an Interagency Committee that would oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Program; requires the Interagency Committee to prepare a triennial report to Congress; establishes an Initiative coordination office.

**Section 6: Advisory Committee.** Requires an Advisory Committee of non-Federal members to provide advice on the Program; charges the Committee with specific duties; and requires the Committee to report on their findings and recommendations at least every 3 years.

**Section 7: External Review of Ethical, Environmental, and Societal Concerns.** Requires a National Academy of Sciences review of the ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology research and development.

**Section 8: Agency Activities:** Describes specific Program activities and responsibilities for NSF, NIST, NOAA, DOE, NASA, USDA, EPA, and HHS.

**Section 9: Rule of Construction.** Restates applicability of current law under 5 U.S.C. 552.