### 113TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H. R. 5056

## **AN ACT**

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,

### 1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- This Act may be cited as the "Research and Develop-
- 3 ment Efficiency Act".

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- 4 SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.
- 5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-6 gress that—
- 7 (1) high and increasing administrative burdens 8 and costs in Federal research administration, par-9 ticularly in the higher education sector where most 10 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-11 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-12 search;
  - (2) progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through Grants.gov, the Federal Government's website portal;
  - (3) post-award administrative costs have grown as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions;
  - (4) facilities and administration costs at research universities can exceed 50 percent of the total value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annually in federally funded research is consumed by pa-

- perwork and other administrative processes required
  by Federal agencies; and
- 3 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to
- 4 American competitiveness that administrative costs
- 5 of federally funded research be streamlined so that
- 6 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-
- 7 rect research activities.
- 8 (b) In General.—The Director of the Office of
- 9 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working
- 10 group under the authority of the National Science and
- 11 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management
- 12 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for
- 13 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-
- 14 search universities and making recommendations on how
- 15 to—
- 16 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-
- 17 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-
- ments; and
- 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.
- 23 (c) Stakeholder Input.—In carrying out the re-
- 24 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group
- 25 shall take into account input and recommendations from

- 1 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and
- 2 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher
- 3 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,
- 4 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small
- 5 businesses, federally funded research and development
- 6 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,
- 7 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-
- 8 entific research.
- 9 (d) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date
- 10 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
- 11 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on
- 12 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
- 13 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
- 14 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been
- 15 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working
- 16 group established under subsection (b).

Passed the House of Representatives July 14, 2014.
Attest:

Clerk.

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