

[118H9194]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act
to support nucleic acid screening, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and
Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening, 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 “Nucleic Acid Standards for
5 Biosecurity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING NUCLEIC ACID SCREENING.**

7 Section 10221 of the Research and Development,
8 Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18931; en-

1 acted as part of title II of division B of Public Law 117–
2 167) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
5 “and” after the semicolon;

6 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
7 subparagraph (E); and

8 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
9 the following new subparagraph:

10 “(D) best practices, guidelines, and tech-
11 nical standards for risk management associated
12 with engineering biology and biomanufacturing,
13 including risks associated with the use of artifi-
14 cial intelligence; and”;

15 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
16 subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
18 lowing new subsection:

19 “(b) NUCLEIC ACID SYNTHESIS SCREENING TOOLS
20 AND STANDARDS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consulta-
22 tion with heads of Federal agencies the Director
23 considers appropriate, shall carry out measurement
24 research to support the development and improve-
25 ment of best practices and technical standards for

1 biosecurity measures related to nucleic acid syn-
2 thesis, including the following:

3 “(A) Testing to improve the accuracy, effi-
4 cacy, and reliability of screening for nucleic acid
5 synthesis.

6 “(B) Best practices, including security and
7 access controls, for operational security and
8 managing sequence-of-concern databases to
9 support such screening.

10 “(C) Technical implementation guidance to
11 ensure such screening is effective and secure.

12 “(D) Conformity-assessment best practices
13 and technical standards.

14 “(E) Methods to evaluate the impact and
15 effectiveness of the implementation of subpara-
16 graphs (A) through (D).

17 “(2) CONSORTIUM.—In carrying out this sub-
18 section, the Director shall convene a consortium of
19 stakeholders, including industry, institutions of high-
20 er education, nonprofit organizations, and customers
21 to carry out the following:

22 “(A) Develop and periodically update con-
23 sensus priorities and best practices, as appro-
24 priate, for synthetic nucleic acid procurement
25 screening mechanisms.

1 “(B) Develop roadmaps to inform the ac-
2 tivities carried out under paragraph (1).

3 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the first meeting of the consortium under paragraph
5 (2), the Director shall submit to the Committee on
6 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
7 ate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
8 nology of the House of Representatives a report
9 summarizing the findings of the consortium.

10 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of
11 the funds authorized to be appropriated for the Na-
12 tional Institute of Standards and Technology pursu-
13 ant to this section for scientific and technical re-
14 search and services laboratory activities, there is au-
15 thorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of
16 fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out this
17 subsection.”.