

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1591

To establish the United States Chief Manufacturing Officer in the Executive Office of the President with the responsibility of developing a National Manufacturing Strategy to revitalize the manufacturing sector, spur economic growth, and expand United States competitiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2021

Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the United States Chief Manufacturing Officer in the Executive Office of the President with the responsibility of developing a National Manufacturing Strategy to revitalize the manufacturing sector, spur economic growth, and expand United States competitiveness, 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 “Chief Manufacturing
5 Officer Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The manufacturing sector consists of estab-
4 lishments that are primarily engaged in the trans-
5 formation of materials, substances, or components
6 into products.

7 (2) A healthy, innovative manufacturing base
8 plays a central role in the United States economy
9 and national defense.

10 (3) The Federal Government supports manufac-
11 turing in a variety of ways; support for manufac-
12 turing-related activities are dispersed across several
13 agencies in the executive branch.

14 (4) Manufacturing employment, output, and ex-
15 ports are impacted by a myriad of factors including
16 the state of infrastructure and transportation, tax
17 policies, environmental and other business regula-
18 tions, trade policies, innovation ecosystems, work-
19 force development, and education initiatives. Legisla-
20 tion and executive actions can have unintended im-
21 pact on the growth of manufacturing in the United
22 States.

23 (5) Manufacturers account for 11 percent of
24 the total gross domestic product output in the
25 United States, employing 8 percent of the workforce.
26 Total output from manufacturing is more than 2

1 trillion dollars. There are nearly 13 million manufac-
2 turing employees in the United States, with an aver-
3 age annual compensation of about \$85,000.

4 (6) Given that 99 percent of manufacturing
5 firms are small and medium size enterprises with a
6 predominantly local employment footprint, workforce
7 development programs must be rooted in local cir-
8 cumstance and requirements.

9 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that a well-designed National Manufacturing Strat-
11 egy would benefit the United States economy in several
12 important ways, including the following:

13 (1) A revitalized manufacturing sector would
14 enable the United States to increase its economic
15 growth from domestic and export production.

16 (2) Manufacturing jobs continue to pay higher
17 wages and benefits than non-manufacturing jobs.
18 Average domestic wages would rise in response to
19 growing manufacturing output.

20 (3) Manufacturing industries undertake two-
21 thirds of private-sector research and development,
22 which fuels the innovation that serves as a primary
23 engine of economic growth. A growing manufac-
24 turing sector would help lay the foundations for fu-
25 ture economic expansion.

1 (4) The United States would expand its long-
2 standing leadership in advanced manufacturing tech-
3 nologies with Federal investments in manufacturing
4 research and development, education, and workforce
5 training.

6 (5) There exists a longstanding connection be-
7 tween domestic manufacturing, national defense, and
8 homeland security. A strong and innovative manu-
9 facturing industry will maintain the technical superi-
10 ority of the United States military and secure supply
11 chain integrity.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
15 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
16 United States Code.

17 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
18 term “institution of higher education” has the
19 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
20 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

21 (3) NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY;
22 STRATEGY.—The terms “National Manufacturing
23 Strategy” and “Strategy” mean the National Manu-
24 facturing Strategy described in subsection (d).

1 (4) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term “small busi-
2 ness” means a company that has fewer than 500
3 employees.

4 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
5 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
6 is described under section 501(c) of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under
8 section 501(a) of such Code.

9 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
10 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
11 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
12 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

13 (7) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
14 “State educational agency” has the meaning given
15 that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and
16 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

17 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES CHIEF MANUFACTURING OFFICER.**

18 (a) APPOINTMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 President shall appoint a United States Chief Manu-
22 facturing Officer (referred to in this section as the
23 “Chief Manufacturing Officer”).

24 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The President shall se-
25 lect the Chief Manufacturing Officer from among in-

1 individuals who have basic qualifications and expertise
2 in manufacturing technology and policy.

3 (3) REPORTING.—The position of Chief Manu-
4 facturing Officer shall be in the Executive Office of
5 the President and shall report to the President
6 through the Chief of Staff.

7 (4) NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL.—The Chief
8 Manufacturing Officer shall be a member of the Na-
9 tional Economic Council.

10 (b) PAY.—The annual rate of pay for the Chief Man-
11 ufacturing Officer shall be level II of the Execu-
12 tive Schedule rate of pay (subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5,
13 United States Code) commensurate with the qualifications
14 and expertise of the individual appointed to be such Offi-
15 cer.

16 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Chief Manufacturing
17 Officer are as follows:

18 (1) To advise the President on policy issues
19 that affect the workforce and economic activity of
20 the manufacturing sector including science, tech-
21 nology, trade, tariffs, currency, and procurement
22 policies.

23 (2) To deliver the National Manufacturing
24 Strategy.

1 (3) To convene interagency working groups to
2 align Federal policies to drive implementation of the
3 National Manufacturing Strategy, including collabo-
4 ration among the Departments of Education, Labor,
5 Energy, Commerce, and Defense, the Environmental
6 Protection Agency, National Science Foundation,
7 Small Business Administration, and other agencies.

8 (4) To evaluate the effectiveness of existing
9 measures designed to improve innovation, produc-
10 tivity, energy efficiency, economic growth, cybersecu-
11 rity, and manufacturing industries' contribution to
12 national security.

13 (5) To propose studies and policy experiments,
14 in cooperation with agencies and the manufacturing
15 industry, to determine effective measures to advance
16 technological innovation and productivity in manu-
17 facturing in the United States.

18 (6) To propose studies and policy experiments,
19 in cooperation with agencies and the manufacturing
20 industry, to determine effective measures to improve
21 environmental sustainability within the manufac-
22 turing industry.

23 (7) To connect manufacturing support pro-
24 grams across the United States to make them more
25 efficient, focused, and easier to use.

1 (8) To identify opportunities to improve the ef-
2 ficiency of grant opportunities that affect the manu-
3 facturing workforce.

4 (9) To assess Federal loan programs to ensure
5 greater access to capital for small businesses that
6 are manufacturers.

7 (10) To examine and improve tax incentives for
8 manufacturing companies in relation to increasing
9 support for investment in—

10 (A) workforce training; and

11 (B) productivity and systems improve-
12 ments, including smart supply chain manage-
13 ment technology and cybersecurity measures.

14 (11) To foster the use of best practices for
15 manufacturing, information technology, and cyberse-
16 curity by identifying and encouraging their use
17 across all Federal Government programs and
18 throughout the procurement process.

19 (12) To encourage the creation of joint initia-
20 tives by State and local governments, regional orga-
21 nizations, private companies, institutions of higher
22 education, nonprofit organizations, and Federal lab-
23 oratories to encourage technology transfer, to stimu-
24 late innovation, and pursue targeted workforce de-

1 velopment to promote an environment ready for in-
2 vestments in manufacturing-related industries.

3 (13) To participate in discussions among com-
4 panies that manufacture in the United States on
5 topics of interest to the manufacturing industry and
6 workforce, including discussions regarding emerging
7 and advanced technologies.

8 (14) To work with the manufacturing industry
9 to identify needs, challenges, and opportunities
10 across the manufacturing sector which, if addressed,
11 could make a significant contribution to improving
12 the ability of manufacturers in the United States to
13 compete successfully in international markets.

14 (15) To carry out ongoing competitive analysis
15 of the manufacturing policies of the governments of
16 other countries, alongside their industrial structures
17 and labor conditions, to help identify factors that
18 successfully support the development of strong man-
19 ufacturing industries.

20 (16) To analyze legislative and agency pro-
21 posals to assess and advise on their potential direct
22 and indirect impact on the manufacturing industry.

23 (17) To work with agencies and the Director of
24 the Office of Management and Budget in the devel-

1 opment of manufacturing-related elements of the
2 President’s annual budget request to Congress.

3 (18) To identify and share best practice activi-
4 ties designed to help support struggling manufac-
5 turing enterprises to review business plans, improve
6 competitiveness, and manage issues like succession
7 planning to avoid closures and retain jobs.

8 (19) To assist States in their economic develop-
9 ment plans for manufacturing, in their efforts to en-
10 courage manufacturing enterprises to retain manu-
11 facturing facilities within the United States, and to
12 foster the domestic retention of facilities and jobs.

13 (20) To support communities negatively im-
14 pacted by the closure or relocation of manufacturing
15 facilities by promoting efforts to create an environ-
16 ment and workforce equipped to attract advanced
17 manufacturing enterprises.

18 (21) To promote and grow the Network for
19 Manufacturing Innovation Program established
20 under section 34 of the National Institute of Stand-
21 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s).

22 (22) To review the effectiveness of and identify
23 shortcomings in existing statutes and policies fo-
24 cused on promoting the domestic use of federally

1 funded research and development in manufacturing
2 technology.

3 (23) To identify and evaluate changes to exist-
4 ing statutes and policies and to recommend legisla-
5 tion and policies to more effectively ensure the do-
6 mestic use of federally funded research and develop-
7 ment in manufacturing technology and to recover
8 such investments from profits realized as a result of
9 offshore manufacturing of systems or components
10 utilizing federally funded technologies or their de-
11 rivatives.

12 (24) To work with appropriate agencies, State
13 and local governments, regional organizations, insti-
14 tutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations,
15 and private companies to stimulate interest in manu-
16 facturing careers.

17 (25) To enhance public perception of manufac-
18 turing careers, encouraging participation of public
19 and private organizations, State educational agen-
20 cies, and institutions of higher education in the an-
21 nual celebration of manufacturing industries on na-
22 tional Manufacturing Day.

23 (26) To coordinate with activities under the
24 Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act
25 of 2018 (Public Law 115–232) and the Committee

1 on Foreign Investment in the United States to en-
2 sure the protection of sensitive emerging United
3 States manufacturing-related technologies.

4 (27) To perform such other functions or activi-
5 ties as the President may assign.

6 (d) NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2
9 years thereafter, the Chief Manufacturing Officer
10 shall submit the National Manufacturing Strategy to
11 the President and Congress. The Strategy shall con-
12 tain a summary of the current state of manufac-
13 turing in the United States and comprehensive strat-
14 egies to—

15 (A) work across Federal and State govern-
16 ment agencies to produce a coherent integrated
17 strategy and plans;

18 (B) identify and address the anticipated
19 workforce needs of the manufacturing sector,
20 recognizing that this sector includes diverse in-
21 dustries competing in different operating envi-
22 ronments;

23 (C) work with industry experts to strength-
24 en education initiatives, and shape training and

1 certificate programs that can be adapted to re-
2 flect local circumstances;

3 (D) create or improve manufacturing
4 training programs and appropriate career paths
5 into manufacturing jobs, to expand opportuni-
6 ties for all, and, in particular, the participation
7 of veterans, the unemployed, women, and other
8 underrepresented groups;

9 (E) promote the development of quality
10 control and other technical standards;

11 (F) maintain reliable physical and tele-
12 communication infrastructure and identify and
13 advocate for future infrastructure requirements;

14 (G) analyze manufacturing technology
15 needs, monitor technology developments, and
16 analyze threats to and opportunities for the
17 manufacturing sector;

18 (H) recommend appropriate tax incentives
19 and financial tools to assist manufacturing en-
20 terprises to improve their competitiveness;

21 (I) review Federal and State regulations to
22 focus on reducing the cost of manufacturing,
23 while improving innovation, productivity, and
24 environmental sustainability;

1 (J) promote the export of United States
2 manufactured goods and the enforcement of
3 fair trade rules embedded in bilateral and inter-
4 national agreements, including rules related to
5 intellectual property rights and labor protection;

6 (K) identify other forms of assistance for
7 companies that manufacture in the United
8 States, enabling them to compete successfully in
9 the international marketplace; and

10 (L) address such other issues as the Presi-
11 dent determines necessary.

12 (2) INCORPORATION OF OTHER STRATEGIC
13 PLANS.—The Chief Manufacturing Officer shall inte-
14 grate into the National Manufacturing Strategy de-
15 scribed in paragraph (1) the following:

16 (A) The national strategic plan for ad-
17 vanced manufacturing developed under section
18 102(c) of the America COMPETES Reauthor-
19 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6622(c)).

20 (B) The strategic plan developed for the
21 Network for Manufacturing Innovation Pro-
22 gram under section 34(f)(2)(C) of the National
23 Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15
24 U.S.C. 278s(f)(2)(C)).

1 (C) The manufacturing elements of the
2 National Nanotechnology Initiative Strategic
3 Plan under section 2(c)(4) of the 21st Century
4 Nanotechnology Research and Development Act
5 (15 U.S.C. 7501(c)(4)).

6 (e) BI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2
8 years thereafter, the Chief Manufacturing Officer, in con-
9 sultation with the Director of the Office of Management
10 and Budget, shall submit to the President and Congress
11 a report that describes progress made in the implementa-
12 tion of the National Manufacturing Strategy and in fulfil-
13 ment of its objectives.

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