

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 35

To increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SENBRENNER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation.

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 “Low-Dose Radiation
5 Research Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department
8 of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a research pro-
9 gram on low dose radiation. The purpose of the program

1 is to enhance the scientific understanding of and reduce
2 uncertainties associated with the effects of exposure to low
3 dose radiation in order to inform improved risk manage-
4 ment methods.

5 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an
7 agreement with the National Academies to conduct a
8 study assessing the current status and development of a
9 long-term strategy for low dose radiation research. Such
10 study shall be completed not later than 18 months after
11 the date of enactment of this Act. The study shall be con-
12 ducted in coordination with Federal agencies that perform
13 ionizing radiation effects research and shall leverage the
14 most current studies in this field. Such study shall—

15 (1) identify current scientific challenges for un-
16 derstanding the long-term effects of ionizing radi-
17 ation;

18 (2) assess the status of current low dose radi-
19 ation research in the United States and internation-
20 ally;

21 (3) formulate overall scientific goals for the fu-
22 ture of low-dose radiation research in the United
23 States;

24 (4) recommend a long-term strategic and
25 prioritized research agenda to address scientific re-

1 search goals for overcoming the identified scientific
2 challenges in coordination with other research ef-
3 forts;

4 (5) define the essential components of a re-
5 search program that would address this research
6 agenda within the universities and the National Lab-
7 oratories; and

8 (6) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of such
9 a program.

10 (c) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after
11 the completion of the study performed under subsection
12 (b) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver to the Committee
13 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
15 Resources of the Senate a 5-year research plan that re-
16 sponds to the study’s findings and recommendations and
17 identifies and prioritizes research needs.

18 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “low dose
19 radiation” means a radiation dose of less than 100
20 millisieverts.

21 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
22 shall be construed to subject any research carried out by
23 the Director under the research program under this Act
24 to any limitations described in section 977(e) of the En-
25 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

1 (f) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to
2 be appropriated under this section. This Act shall be car-
3 ried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law.

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