

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4421

To establish the Office of Biotechnology Policy in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To establish the Office of Biotechnology Policy in the Department of Agriculture, 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 “Agricultural Bio-
5 technology Coordination Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**
7

8 (a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—The Secretary of Agriculture
9 shall prioritize biotechnology at the Department of Agri-
10 culture by providing for the effective coordination of poli-

1 cies and activities with respect to biotechnology, biomanu-
2 facturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging tech-
3 nologies.

4 (b) OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.—Subtitle
5 A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
6 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 224B. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
10 lish within the Department the Office of Biotechnology
11 Policy (referred to in this section as the ‘Office’).

12 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Di-
13 rector (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’), who
14 shall report directly to the Secretary or a designee of the
15 Secretary.

16 “(c) DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.—The Office shall be
17 responsible for—

18 “(1) the development and coordination of poli-
19 cies, activities, and services of the Department with
20 respect to biotechnology and related topics, includ-
21 ing—

22 “(A) research and development;

23 “(B) communication, extension, and edu-
24 cation;

25 “(C) regulation and labeling; and

1 “(D) commercialization, use, and trade;

2 “(2) assisting other offices and agencies of the
3 Department in fulfilling their responsibilities relating
4 to biotechnology under applicable laws; and

5 “(3) carrying out such other duties as are re-
6 quired by law or determined by the Secretary.

7 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In support of
8 the duties required under subsection (c), the Director shall
9 provide leadership to ensure coordination of interagency
10 activities with the Environmental Protection Agency, the
11 Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal and
12 State agencies.

13 “(e) OUTREACH.—In carrying out the duties of the
14 Office under this section, the Director shall consult as nec-
15 essary with biotechnology developers, academics, agricul-
16 tural producers, and other entities that may be affected
17 by biotechnology-related activities or actions of the De-
18 partment or other Federal or State agencies.”.

19 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle A of the
20 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is
21 amended by redesignating section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925)
22 (relating to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

○