

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2015

MAY 19, 2015.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Texas, from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1156]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1156) to authorize the establishment of a body under the National Science and Technology Council to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation opportunities, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

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COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND VIEWS

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1156, the *International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015*, is sponsored by Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL-03), Ranking Member of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. The purpose of the bill is to authorize the establishment of a body under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation opportunities that can strengthen the U.S. science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support U.S. foreign policy goals. The body shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the U.S. Department of State.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Science and technology (S&T) research addresses key challenges facing our nation, including energy production, public health, national security, and economic development. By collaborating with international partners on scientific issues, we strengthen the U.S. scientific enterprise and promote the free exchange of ideas with other nations. While many federal agencies are engaging with international partners on S&T projects, there is a need to coordinate these efforts across the federal government and to identify opportunities for additional collaborations.

H.R. 1156 directs the NSTC to establish a body that would identify and coordinate the U.S. interagency strategy for international S&T cooperation. In addition, the bill requires NSTC to report back to Congress on their activities to ensure appropriate oversight. This would strengthen the U.S. S&T enterprise, improve economic and national security and support U.S. foreign policy goals.

Interagency coordination will ensure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and that U.S. priorities are consistently addressed when working with international partners on S&T issues. Further, this body will make recommendations for improving U.S. engagement in S&T cooperation with global partners so that the U.S. maintains its leadership in S&T research and discovery.

This legislation will improve U.S. participation in international S&T efforts, ensure a more efficient use of resources, and help the U.S. maintain its leadership in the global science arena.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In the 113th Congress, Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL-03), the Ranking Member of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, introduced a similar bill (H.R. 5029) on July 8, 2014. On July 14, the bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 346-41, and was referred to the Senate on July 15, 2014.

COMMITTEE VIEWS

Currently, OSTP, together with the U.S. Department of State, already works closely with government science agencies, independent research and scientific institutions, and non-governmental organi-

zations to promote S&T initiatives and strengthen global science cooperation. H.R. 1156 demonstrates the Committee's support for these scientific activities which will enhance cooperative and collaborative efforts between U.S. and international scientists. The bill highlights the historical importance of international scientific collaboration and the need to proactively engage with the international scientific community.

H.R. 1156 also attempts to bring some coherence and direction to the existing NSTC body by specifying its co-chairs and its responsibilities, including ensuring that the science and technology activities align with U.S. foreign policy goals. H.R. 1156 includes a reporting requirement by OSTP to the Committee so that it may review the body's work and have better visibility into the internal partnerships across agencies as well as a better understanding of international science diplomacy.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 1. Short title

International Science and Technology Cooperation Act

Section 2. Coordination of International Science and Technology Partnerships

This section requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to establish a body under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the U.S. science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support U.S. foreign policy goals. The body shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from OSTP and the Department of State. The body shall:

- Plan and coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies and work with other NSTC committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;
- Establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;
- Identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;
- Solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including universities, scientific and professional societies, industry, and relevant organizations and institutions; and
- Identify broad issues that influence the ability of U.S. scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

This section requires the Director of OSTP to submit a report to Congress every two years describing the work of the body, the ongoing and new partnerships established since the last report, the means by which stakeholder input was received as well as summary views of that input, and the issues influencing U.S. scientists' abilities to collaborate with foreign counterparts.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

There were no amendments to this bill.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On March 4, 2015, the Committee met in open session and ordered reported favorably the bill, H.R. 1156 by voice vote, a quorum being present.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104–1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch where the bill relates to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services and accommodations. This bill authorizes the establishment of a body under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation opportunities that can strengthen the U.S. science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support U.S. foreign policy goals. As such this bill does not relate to employment or access to public services and accommodations.

STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's performance goals and objectives are to demonstrate the Committee's support for science and technology initiatives that will enhance cooperative and collaborative efforts between U.S. and international scientists.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

No provision of H.R. 1156 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

The Committee estimates that enacting H.R. 1156 does not direct the completion of any specific rule makings within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 551.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or authorize the establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of 5 U.S.C. App., Section 5(b).

UNFUNDED MANDATE STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, P.L. 104-4) requires a statement as to whether the provisions of the reported include unfunded mandates. In compliance with this requirement the Committee has received a letter from the Congressional Budget Office included herein.

EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

H.R. 1156 does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1156. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 1156 from the Director of Congressional Budget Office:

MARCH 12, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1156, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Marin Burnett.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1156—International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015

H.R. 1156 would require the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to create a new committee under the National Science and Technology Council. The committee would facilitate international research and training activities, primarily those to aid U.S. domestic science and technology and to support U.S. foreign policy goals. Senior-level officials from the OSTP and Department of State would co-chair the committee.

Based on information from the OSTP, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1156 would cost about \$3 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. That amount includes the costs to coordinate federal agency activities, prepare reports, and hire staff for the new committee. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Marin Burnett. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.