

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 937

To support innovation and research in the United States textile and fiber products industry.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. COBLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support innovation and research in the United States textile and fiber products industry.

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 “American Textile
5 Technology Innovation and Research for Exportation (AT-
6 TIRE) Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the United States textile industry continues
2 to thrive and evolve despite changing economic and
3 labor conditions;

4 (2) the United States textile industry employs
5 over 500,000 workers nationwide and contributes
6 nearly \$60,000,000,000 to the gross domestic prod-
7 uct annually;

8 (3) the United States textile industry is a pri-
9 mary supplier of domestic jobs to women and mi-
10 norities, with many of these jobs located in economi-
11 cally depressed rural and urban areas;

12 (4) research and innovation are essential to the
13 United States textile industry's ability to maintain
14 its competitive advantage and expand its export on
15 an international scale; and

16 (5) by working closely with the textile industry
17 to improve existing technologies and to identify new
18 market opportunities, university-based textile re-
19 search programs and not-for-profit textile research
20 centers play a critical role in promoting innovation
21 and growth in the textile industry and in the United
22 States economy as a whole.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT TEXTILE RESEARCH**
2 **AND INNOVATION THROUGH UNIVERSITY**
3 **AND INDUSTRY-BASED RESEARCH.**

4 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Com-
5 merce shall establish a competitive grant program (in this
6 section referred to as the “grant program”) to fund textile
7 research and innovation and to promote increased textile
8 exports.

9 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

10 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The eligible recipi-
11 ents of grants under the grant program shall be lim-
12 ited to institutions of higher education and not-for-
13 profit research institutions, including not-for-profit
14 industry associations whose core mission is to sup-
15 port textile research and innovation.

16 (2) PREFERENCE.—Preference in awarding
17 such grants shall be given to collaborative research
18 organizations that emphasize peer-reviewed research
19 by leading academic and industry experts.

20 (3) APPLICATION PROCEDURE.—Applications
21 for such a grant shall be submitted at such time and
22 in such manner as determined by the Secretary of
23 Commerce.

24 (4) REVIEW PROCEDURE.—All such applica-
25 tions shall be subject to a rigorous and competitive
26 peer review procedure.

1 (c) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—The funds author-
2 ized to be appropriated for the grant program shall be
3 used for research and development activities that achieve
4 at least one of the following goals:

5 (1) To build and sustain innovation, competi-
6 tiveness, and best practices in the United States tex-
7 tile industry.

8 (2) To contribute to transforming the United
9 States textile and apparel industry into a highly
10 flexible supply chain, capable of responding to rap-
11 idly changing market demands including shifts to
12 technologically advanced textile production.

13 (3) To discover, design, and develop new mate-
14 rials, and innovative and improved manufacturing
15 and integrated systems, essential to the success of a
16 modern United States textile industry.

17 (4) To train personnel, establish industrial
18 partnerships, and create transfer mechanisms to en-
19 sure the utilization of technologies developed.

20 (5) To strengthen the Nation's textile research
21 and educational efforts by uniting diverse experts
22 and resources in unique collaborative projects.

23 (6) To facilitate the creation of domestic jobs in
24 the textile industry.

25 (d) RESTRICTION ON FUNDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), no
2 more than 75 percent of total funding made avail-
3 able under the grant program in a fiscal year may
4 be disbursed to institutions of higher education.

5 (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—If the Secretary of
6 Commerce determines that the limitation of para-
7 graph (1) would result in the failure to disburse all
8 appropriated funds for a fiscal year, the Secretary
9 may waive such limitation for such fiscal year.

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Secretary of Commerce \$5,000,000 for fis-
13 cal year 2014 to carry out section 3. Amounts appro-
14 priated under this subsection shall be available until ex-
15 pended.

16 (b) OFFSETTING REDUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION OF
17 APPROPRIATIONS.—The amount authorized to be appro-
18 priated for operations and administration of the Inter-
19 national Trade Administration in the Department of Com-
20 merce for fiscal year 2014 is reduced by \$5,000,000.

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