

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2915

To enhance public awareness of federally funded research and development projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2016

Mr. FLAKE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To enhance public awareness of federally funded research and development projects, 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 “Federal Research
5 Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given
9 the term in section 551 of title 5, United States
10 Code; and

1 (2) the term “covered study” means any study
2 that—

3 (A) is carried out in whole or in part with
4 Federal funds; and

5 (B) is published, presented at a conference
6 or meeting, or otherwise made publicly avail-
7 able.

8 **SEC. 3. FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH DISCLOSURES**
9 **AND DATABASE.**

10 (a) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATIVE RESEARCH FUND-
11 ING.—The Director of the Office of Management and
12 Budget shall coordinate with each agency that provides
13 funding to entities to carry out research and development
14 to establish a system to detect potential duplicative appli-
15 cations for funding in order to prevent duplicative fund-
16 ing.

17 (b) DATABASE OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH
18 AND DEVELOPMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall include in
20 a publicly accessible database a searchable listing of
21 each unclassified research and development project
22 that is funded by the agency, including a contract,
23 grant, cooperative agreement, or task order.

24 (2) CONTENTS.—A database described in para-
25 graph (1) shall, with respect to each unclassified re-

1 search and development project of an agency, con-
2 tain—

3 (A) the agency component that is carrying
4 out or providing funding or other assistance for
5 the project;

6 (B) the name of the project;

7 (C) an abstract or summary of the project;

8 (D) the funding level for the project;

9 (E) the duration of the project;

10 (F) the name of any contractor, subcon-
11 tractor, or grantee;

12 (G) the title of any published study funded
13 by or related to the project; and

14 (H) expected objectives and milestones for
15 the project.

16 (3) EXISTING DATABASE.—An agency may sat-
17 isfy the requirements under this subsection if the
18 Director of the Office of Management and Budget
19 determines that the agency maintains a publicly ac-
20 cessible database, including a database operated by
21 or shared with another agency, that substantially
22 meets the requirements of this subsection.

23 (c) REQUIREMENT FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN COV-
24 ERED STUDIES.—The acknowledgment section in each
25 covered study shall include—

1 (1) the name of each agency that provided
2 funding for the covered study;

3 (2) the project or award number associated
4 with the covered study; and

5 (3) an estimate of the total cost of the covered
6 study.

7 (d) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
9 United States shall conduct a study and make publicly
10 available a report, which shall—

11 (1) analyze the compliance of agencies, contrac-
12 tors, subcontractors, and grantees with the require-
13 ments of this Act;

14 (2) identify any obstacles that remain to pre-
15 vent the public from accessing the cost and findings
16 of covered studies and other research and develop-
17 ment projects funded by agencies; and

18 (3) analyze efforts by agencies to prevent dupli-
19 cative spending.

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