

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4084

To support the lab-embedded entrepreneurship program under the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2022

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To support the lab-embedded entrepreneurship program under the Department of Energy, 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 “Leveraging our Na-
5 tional Laboratories to Develop Tomorrow’s Technology
6 Leaders Act of 2022”.

7 **SEC. 2. LAB-EMBEDDED ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term “covered
2 program” means a program described in subsection
3 (c).

4 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible enti-
6 ty” means—

7 (i) a National Laboratory; and

8 (ii) an entity described in subpara-
9 graph (B) in partnership with a National
10 Laboratory.

11 (B) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An entity re-
12 ferred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) is—

13 (i) a nonprofit organization;

14 (ii) an institution of higher education;

15 and

16 (iii) any other entity that the Sec-
17 retary determines appropriate.

18 (3) ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOW.—The term
19 “entrepreneurial fellow” means an individual partici-
20 pating in a covered program.

21 (4) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
22 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given the term
23 in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
24 U.S.C. 15801).

1 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
2 the Lab-Embedded Entrepreneurship Program au-
3 thorized under subsection (b).

4 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Energy.

6 (b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a pro-
7 gram, to be known as the “Lab-Embedded Entrepreneur-
8 ship Program”, under which the Secretary shall award
9 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing
10 or maintaining a covered program.

11 (c) COVERED PROGRAMS.—An eligible entity receiv-
12 ing a grant under the program shall use the grant funds
13 to establish or maintain a lab-embedded entrepreneurship
14 program to provide entrepreneurial fellows with access to
15 National Laboratory research facilities, expertise, and
16 mentorship—

17 (1) to perform research and development; and

18 (2) to gain expertise that may be required or
19 beneficial for the commercial application of research
20 ideas.

21 (d) ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOWS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In participating in a covered
23 program, an entrepreneurial fellow shall be provided
24 by an eligible entity with—

1 (A) opportunities for entrepreneurial train-
2 ing, professional development, and exposure to
3 leaders from academia, industry, government,
4 and finance, who may serve as advisors to or
5 partners of an entrepreneurial fellow;

6 (B) financial and technical support for re-
7 search, development, and commercial applica-
8 tion activities;

9 (C) fellowship awards to cover costs of liv-
10 ing, health insurance, and travel stipends for
11 the duration of the fellowship;

12 (D) market and customer discovery oppor-
13 tunities;

14 (E) engagement with external stake-
15 holders; and

16 (F) any other resources determined appro-
17 priate by the Secretary.

18 (2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out a covered pro-
19 gram, an eligible entity shall give priority to sup-
20 porting entrepreneurial fellows with respect to pro-
21 fessional development and development of a relevant
22 technology.

23 (3) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—In partici-
24 pating in a covered program, an entrepreneurial fel-
25 low shall retain all rights relating to intellectual

1 property developed by the entrepreneurial fellow
2 through activities carried out under the covered pro-
3 gram.

4 (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity described in
5 subparagraph (A)(i) of subsection (a)(2) that receives a
6 grant under the program may carry out a covered program
7 in partnership with 1 or more entities described in sub-
8 paragraph (B) of that subsection.

9 (f) METRICS.—The Secretary shall develop metrics to
10 assess the effectiveness of each covered program in achiev-
11 ing the purposes of the program.

12 (g) COORDINATION; INTERAGENCY COLLABORA-
13 TION.—The Secretary shall—

14 (1) oversee the planning and coordination of
15 grants awarded under the program; and

16 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, in-
17 cluding the Department of Defense, regarding op-
18 portunities for Federal agencies to partner with cov-
19 ered programs.

20 (h) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall identify
21 and disseminate to eligible entities best practices for
22 achieving the purposes of the program.

23 (i) ASSESSMENTS; REPORTS.—Not later than 4 years
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less fre-
25 quently than biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) conduct an assessment of each covered pro-
2 gram based on the metrics developed under sub-
3 section (f); and

4 (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and
5 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
6 on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
7 Representatives a report summarizing the findings
8 of those assessments.

9 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
11 out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
12 through 2027.

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