

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 451

To require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to help facilitate the adoption of composite technology in infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to help facilitate the adoption of composite technology in infrastructure in the United States, 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 “Composite Standards
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FACILITATING THE ADOPTION OF COMPOSITE**
2 **TECHNOLOGY IN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

3 (a) RESEARCH.—Subject to the availability of appro-
4 priations, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the
5 Director of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
6 nology, shall implement the recommendations contained in
7 the December 2017 report entitled “Road Mapping Work-
8 shop Report on Overcoming Barriers to Adoption of Com-
9 posites in Sustainable Infrastructure”, as appropriate, to
10 help facilitate the adoption of composite technology in in-
11 frastructure in the United States. In implementing such
12 recommendations, the Secretary, acting through the Di-
13 rector shall, with respect to the use of composite tech-
14 nology in infrastructure—

15 (1) not later than 1 year after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act, develop a design for a data
17 clearinghouse to identify, gather, validate, and dis-
18 seminate existing design criteria, tools, evaluation
19 methods and services, guidelines, and standards in a
20 timely manner;

21 (2) not later than 18 months after the date of
22 the enactment of this Act, establish the data clear-
23 inghouse described in paragraph (1);

24 (3) when it would not duplicate or displace
25 building product-specific private sector developed
26 methods and resources, develop methods and re-

1 sources for testing and evaluating safe and appro-
2 priate uses of composite materials for infrastructure,
3 including—

4 (A) conditioning protocols, procedures and
5 models;

6 (B) screening and acceptance tools; and

7 (C) minimum allowable design data sets
8 that can be converted into design tools; and

9 (4) work with other Federal agencies, as appro-
10 priate, to identify environmental impacts and
11 recyclability of composite materials.

12 (b) STANDARDS COORDINATION.—The Secretary,
13 acting through the Director, shall assure that the appro-
14 priate Institute staff consult regularly with standards de-
15 velopers, evaluation and accreditation bodies, members of
16 the composites industry, institutions of higher education,
17 and other stakeholders in order to facilitate the adoption
18 of standards for use of composite materials in infrastruc-
19 ture that are based on the research and testing results
20 and other information developed by the Institute.

21 (c) PILOT PROGRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
23 appropriations, commencing not later than 1 year
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
25 rector of the National Institute of Standards and

1 Technology shall, in consultation with the Industry-
2 University Cooperative Research Centers Program of
3 the National Science Foundation, conduct a pilot
4 program to assess the feasibility and advisability of
5 adopting composite technology in sustainable infra-
6 structure.

7 (2) DURATION.—The Director shall carry out
8 the pilot program during the 4-year period beginning
9 on the date of the commencement of the pilot pro-
10 gram.

11 (3) REPORTS.—

12 (A) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later
13 than the date that is 2 years after the date of
14 the commencement of the pilot program, the
15 Director shall submit to the Committee on
16 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate and the Committee on Science, Space,
18 and Technology of the House of Representa-
19 tives a report on the preliminary findings of the
20 Director with respect to the pilot program.

21 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the
22 date that is 90 days after the date of the com-
23 pletion of the pilot program, the Director shall
24 submit to the committees referred to in sub-

- 1 paragraph (A) a report on the findings of the
- 2 Director with respect to the pilot program.

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