



(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the National Academies to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. FLETCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the National Academies to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS, 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 PFAS Re-
5 search Evaluation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
2 stances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals
3 that have been used in a wide range of products
4 since the 1940s including firefighting foam, car-
5 peting, packaging, and cookware. There are more
6 than 5,000 types of registered PFAS compounds.
7 This chemical class is not currently regulated at the
8 Federal level.

9 (2) PFAS have been detected in air, water, soil,
10 food, biosolids, and more. They accumulate and re-
11 main in the body for a long time, and can lead to
12 serious health effects including cancer, low infant
13 birthweight, liver and kidney issues, reproductive
14 and developmental problems, and more.

15 (3) There remains much unknown about PFAS
16 toxicity, human and environmental health effects, ex-
17 posure pathways, as well as effective removal, treat-
18 ment, and destruction methods, and safe alternatives
19 to PFAS.

20 (4) There is currently no cohesive, interagency
21 effort to address PFAS, and no Federal agency is
22 focused on a multidisciplinary, cross-sector ap-
23 proach. Rather, there are fragmented efforts at var-
24 ious agencies that have failed to address the full
25 scope of challenges presented by PFAS.

1 (5) Regulatory action and cleanup depend on
2 scientific analysis of toxicity data, decision-making
3 on how best to deal with the thousands of PFAS,
4 and understanding the significance of the many ex-
5 posure pathways that exist. A consensus study by
6 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
7 and Medicine would help inform decisions by Federal
8 and State governments, industry, and other stake-
9 holders on how to best address PFAS.

10 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORTS.**

11 (a) RESEARCH ASSESSMENTS OF PFAS EXPOSURE
12 AND TOXICITY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
15 of the Environmental Protection Agency, in con-
16 sultation with the Director of the National Science
17 Foundation, the Secretary of Defense, the Director
18 of the National Institutes of Health, and other Fed-
19 eral agencies with expertise relevant to under-
20 standing PFAS exposure and toxicity, shall enter
21 into an agreement with the National Academies to
22 conduct a two-phase study and submit reports in ac-
23 cordance with this subsection to identify research
24 and development needed to advance human exposure

1 estimation and toxicity and hazard estimation of in-
2 dividual or total PFAS.

3 (2) PHASE I STUDY AND REPORT ON HUMAN
4 EXPOSURE ESTIMATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The phase I study re-
6 quired to be conducted under paragraph (1)
7 shall, at a minimum—

8 (i) consider life-cycle information on
9 the manufacture, use, and disposal of
10 PFAS-containing products to identify ex-
11 posure sources and potential exposure
12 pathways for the public;

13 (ii) evaluate the fate and transport of
14 PFAS and their breakdown products;

15 (iii) if feasible, estimate exposure to
16 individual or total PFAS to determine rel-
17 ative source contributions for various expo-
18 sure pathways (such as air, water, soil, or
19 food);

20 (iv) determine environmentally rel-
21 evant PFAS; and

22 (v) identify research needed to ad-
23 vance exposure estimation to individual or
24 total PFAS.

1 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days
2 after the date on which the agreement described
3 in paragraph (1) is finalized, the National
4 Academies shall submit to Congress a report
5 containing the findings and recommendations of
6 the study described in subparagraph (A) and
7 shall make such report available on a publicly
8 accessible website.

9 (3) PHASE II STUDY AND REPORT ON PFAS
10 TOXICITY AND HAZARD ESTIMATION.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The phase II study re-
12 quired to be conducted under paragraph (1)
13 shall, at a minimum—

14 (i) review animal and human toxicity
15 information on the environmentally rel-
16 evant PFAS identified in the Phase I re-
17 port under paragraph (2) and develop an
18 approach for conducting a hazard assess-
19 ment of these PFAS;

20 (ii) give consideration as to whether
21 chemical category-based approaches for as-
22 sessing toxicity would be appropriate for
23 evaluating PFAS as a group; and

1 (iii) identify research needed to ad-
2 vance toxicity and hazard assessment of in-
3 dividual or total PFAS.

4 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days
5 after the date on which the Phase I report is
6 submitted to Congress under paragraph (2), the
7 National Academies shall submit to Congress a
8 report containing the findings and recommenda-
9 tions of the study described in subparagraph
10 (A) and shall make such report available on a
11 publicly accessible website.

12 (b) RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND
13 TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PFAS CONTAMINATION
14 IN THE ENVIRONMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
17 of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Di-
18 rector of the National Science Foundation, in con-
19 sultation with the Secretary of Defense and other
20 Federal agencies with expertise relevant to the devel-
21 opment of PFAS alternatives and the management
22 and treatment of PFAS, shall jointly enter into an
23 agreement with the National Academies to conduct
24 a study and submit a report in accordance with this
25 subsection to better understand the research and de-

1 velopment needed to advance the understanding of
2 the extent and implications of environmental con-
3 tamination by PFAS, how to manage and treat such
4 contamination, and the development of safe alter-
5 natives.

6 (2) SCOPE OF STUDY.—The study described in
7 paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (A) An assessment of the current research
10 on such issues.

11 (B) A description of the research gaps re-
12 lating to such issues.

13 (C) Recommendations on how the Federal
14 government can address the research needs
15 identified pursuant to subparagraph (B).

16 (D) Recommendations on how research can
17 best incorporate considerations of socioeconomic
18 issues into the development of research pro-
19 posals and the conduct of research.

20 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after
21 the date on which the agreement described in para-
22 graph (1) is finalized, the National Academies shall
23 submit to Congress a report containing the findings
24 and recommendations of the study described in

1 paragraph (2) and shall make such report available
2 on a publicly accessible website.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

5 (1) to the Administrator of Environmental Pro-
6 tection Agency, \$3,000,000; and

7 (2) to the Director of the National Science
8 Foundation, \$1,000,000.

9 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

10 Not later than 180 days after submission to Congress
11 of latest of the National Academies reports under section
12 3, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
13 Policy, in coordination with all relevant Federal agencies,
14 shall submit to Congress an implementation plan for Fed-
15 eral PFAS research, development, and demonstration ac-
16 tivities. In preparing such an implementation plan, the Di-
17 rector shall take into consideration the recommendations
18 included in the reports in section 3.

19 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—The term “Na-
22 tional Academies” means the National Academies of
23 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

24 (2) PFAS.—The term “PFAS” means per- and
25 polyfluoroalkyl substances.