

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8140

To enable high research activity status historically Black colleges or universities to increase capacity toward achieving very high research activity status, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2022

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Mr. STEWART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 enable high research activity status historically Black colleges or universities to increase capacity toward achieving very high research activity status, 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 “HBCU Research, In-
5 novation, Security, and Excellence Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Historically Black colleges and universities
4 hold a unique position in the efforts of the United
5 States to diversify the science, technology, engineer-
6 ing, and mathematics academic and workforce com-
7 munities.

8 (2) Although our Nation's historically Black
9 colleges and universities make up just 3 percent of
10 the colleges and universities in the United States,
11 historically Black colleges and universities graduate
12 25 percent of African-American students with bacca-
13 laureate degrees in the fields of science, technology,
14 engineering, and mathematics.

15 (3) Historically Black colleges and universities
16 are the institution of origin for almost 30 percent of
17 Black graduates of science and engineering doc-
18 torate programs.

19 (4) The health of the Department of Defense
20 and the United States research ecosystem relies on
21 high quality researchers from a diverse talent pool.

22 (5) Historically Black colleges and universities
23 have a history of conducting high quality research in
24 unique areas, both providing impactful research out-
25 comes and developing the next generation of the re-
26 search ecosystem, including by—

1 (A) conducting high quality research in
2 unique areas that has enriched the Department
3 of Defense research enterprise and the United
4 States research ecosystem, including—

5 (i) providing science and engineering
6 faculty research opportunities at U.S.
7 Navy Laboratories;

8 (ii) a “Young Investigators Program”
9 at the Air Force Research Laboratory sup-
10 porting basic and applied research on aero-
11 space systems (RQ), materials and manu-
12 facturing (RX), and information (RI); and

13 (iii) Centers of Excellence in bio-
14 technology and materials science; and

15 (B) strengthening and diversifying the
16 United States research ecosystem by increasing
17 the number of students who are students of di-
18 verse backgrounds from historically Black col-
19 leges and universities with undergraduate or
20 graduate degrees in science, technology, engi-
21 neering, or mathematics; and

22 (C) fueling domestic and international col-
23 laborations that led to trailblazing discoveries
24 and innovative technologies.

1 (6) In 2019, historically Black colleges and uni-
2 versities received \$371,000,000, or about 0.8 percent
3 of the \$44,500,000,000 in Federal funding to insti-
4 tutions of higher education for research and develop-
5 ment. The amount of funding for 2019 is a marked
6 decrease from fiscal year 2018, when historically
7 Black colleges and universities received
8 \$400,000,000 in Federal research and development
9 funding (0.9 percent of the Federal funding to insti-
10 tutions of higher education for such purposes).

11 (7) There are no historically Black colleges and
12 universities designated as very high research activity
13 status, as classified by the Carnegie Classification of
14 Institutions of Higher Education.

15 (8) Meaningfully investing in the research ca-
16 pacity of historically Black colleges and universities
17 is an investment in our Nation's future and will help
18 meet accelerating science, technology, engineering,
19 and mathematics workforce demands and safeguard
20 the national security interests of the United States.

21 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

22 The purpose of the program established under this
23 Act is to provide additional pathways needed for further
24 increasing capacity at historically Black colleges and uni-

1 versities to achieve and maintain very high research activ-
2 ity status.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—The term “eligi-
6 ble institution” means a historically Black college or
7 university that is classified as a high research activ-
8 ity status institution at the time of application for
9 a grant under section 5.

10 (2) **HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS.**—The
11 term “high research activity status” means R2 sta-
12 tus, as classified by the Carnegie Classification of
13 Institutions of Higher Education.

14 (3) **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-**
15 **VERSITY.**—The term “historically Black college or
16 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
17 institution” under section 322 of the Higher Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

19 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Defense.

21 (5) **VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS.**—
22 The term “very high research activity status” means
23 R1 status, as classified by the Carnegie Classifica-
24 tion of Institutions of Higher Education.

1 (6) VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS
2 INDICATORS.—The term “very high research activity
3 status indicators” means the categories used by the
4 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher
5 Education to delineate which institutions have very
6 high activity status, including—

7 (A) annual expenditures in science and en-
8 gineering;

9 (B) per-capita (faculty member) expendi-
10 tures in science and engineering;

11 (C) annual expenditures in non-science and
12 engineering fields;

13 (D) per-capita (faculty member) expendi-
14 tures in non-science and engineering fields;

15 (E) doctorates awarded in science, tech-
16 nology, engineering, and mathematics fields;

17 (F) doctorates awarded in social science
18 fields;

19 (G) doctorates awarded in the humanities;

20 (H) doctorates awarded in other fields with
21 a research emphasis;

22 (I) total number of research staff including
23 postdoctoral researchers;

24 (J) other doctorate-holding non-faculty re-
25 searchers in science and engineering and per-

capita (faculty) number of doctorate-level research staff including post-doctoral researchers; and

(K) other categories utilized to determine classification.

**SEC. 5. PROGRAM TO INCREASE CAPACITY TOWARD
ACHIEVING VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY
STATUS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES
OR UNIVERSITIES.**

(a) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out, using funds made available for research activities, a pilot program to increase capacity at high research activity status historically Black colleges and universities toward achieving very high research activity status during the grant period.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In establishing such program, the Secretary may consider the recommendations pursuant to section 262 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C. 2362 note) and section 220 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81).

1 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
2 award, on a competitive basis, grants to eligible institu-
3 tions to carry out the activities under subsection (d)(1).

4 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seeking a
5 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
6 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
7 such information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
8 quire, including a description of—

9 (1) nascent research capabilities with respect to
10 research areas of interest to the Department of De-
11 fense;

12 (2) a plan for increasing the level of research
13 activity toward achieving very high research activity
14 status classification during the grant period, includ-
15 ing measurable milestones such as growth in very
16 high research activity status indicators and other
17 relevant factors;

18 (3) how such institution will sustain the in-
19 creased level of research activity after the conclusion
20 of the grant period; and

21 (4) how the institution will evaluate and assess
22 progress with respect to the implementation of the
23 plan under paragraph (2).

24 (d) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

1 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution
2 that receives a grant under this section shall use the
3 grant funds to support research activities with re-
4 spect to research areas for STEM and critical tech-
5 nologies, as determined by the Secretary under para-
6 graph (2), including—

7 (A) faculty professional development;

8 (B) stipends for undergraduate and grad-
9 uate students and post-doctoral scholars;

10 (C) laboratory equipment and instrumenta-
11 tion;

12 (D) recruitment and retention of faculty
13 and graduate students;

14 (E) communication and dissemination of
15 products produced during the grant period;

16 (F) construction, modernization, rehabilita-
17 tion, or retrofitting of facilities for research
18 purposes; and

19 (G) other activities necessary to build ca-
20 pacity in achieving very high research activity
21 status indicators.

22 (2) STRATEGIC AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC RE-
23 SEARCH.—The Secretary, in consultation with the
24 Defense Science Board, shall establish and update,

1 on an annual basis, a list of research areas for
2 STEM and critical technologies.

3 (3) RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORTING.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
5 after receiving a grant under this section, and
6 every 3 years thereafter, an eligible institution
7 shall submit to the Secretary—

8 (i) a report that includes an assess-
9 ment by the institution, using the criteria
10 established in subparagraph (B), of the
11 progress made by such institution with re-
12 spect to achieving very high research activ-
13 ity indicators; and

14 (ii) an updated plan described in sub-
15 section (c)(2).

16 (B) RESEARCH ASSESSMENT.—The Sec-
17 retary, in partnership with the eligible institu-
18 tion, shall establish criteria for the report re-
19 quired under subparagraph (A)(i).

20 (4) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
21 this section shall be for a period of not more than
22 10 years, to be determined by the Secretary.

23 (5) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Sec-
24 retary may award grants under this section to his-
25 torically Black colleges and universities that are not

1 eligible institutions if the Secretary determines that
2 the program can support such colleges and univer-
3 sities while achieving the purpose of the program de-
4 scribed in section 3.

5 (e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
7 pare and submit a report to the Committee on Armed
8 Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Serv-
9 ices of the House of Representatives providing an update
10 on the pilot program, including—

11 (1) activities carried out under the pilot pro-
12 gram;

13 (2) an analysis of the growth in very high re-
14 search activity status indicators of eligible institu-
15 tions that received a grant under this section; and

16 (3) emerging research areas of interest to the
17 Department of Defense conducted by eligible institu-
18 tions that received a grant under this section.

19 (f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary to
20 award grants under the pilot program established by this
21 section shall terminate 10 years after the date on which
22 the Secretary establishes such program.

23 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the termination of the pilot program under sub-
25 section (f), the Secretary shall prepare and submit a re-

1 port to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate
2 and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
3 Representatives on the pilot program that includes the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (1) An analysis of the growth in very high re-
6 search activity status indicators of eligible institu-
7 tions that received a grant under this section.

8 (2) An evaluation on the effectiveness of the
9 program in increasing the research capacity of eligi-
10 ble institutions that received a grant under this sec-
11 tion.

12 (3) An description of how institutions that have
13 achieved very high research activity status plan to
14 sustain that status beyond the duration of the pro-
15 gram.

16 (4) An evaluation of the maintenance of very
17 high research status by eligible institutions that re-
18 ceived a grant under this section.

19 (5) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the
20 program in increasing the diversity of students con-
21 ducting high quality research in unique areas.

22 (6) Recommendations with respect to further
23 activities and investments necessary to elevate the
24 research status of historically Black colleges and
25 universities.

- 1 (7) Recommendations on whether the program
- 2 established under this section should be renewed or
- 3 expanded.

