

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7348

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2020

Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. POSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## 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:

8 (1) Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-  
9 stances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals

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

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

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

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

24 (5) Regulatory action and cleanup depend on  
25 scientific analysis of toxicity data, decision making

1 on how best to deal with the thousands of PFAS,  
2 and understanding the significance of the many ex-  
3 posure pathways that exist. A consensus study by  
4 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
5 and Medicine would help inform decisions by Federal  
6 and State Governments, industry, and other stake-  
7 holders on how to best address PFAS.

8 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORTS.**

9 (a) RESEARCH ASSESSMENTS OF PFAS EXPOSURE  
10 AND TOXICITY.—

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

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

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

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

11           (ii) evaluate the fate and transport of  
12 PFAS and their breakdown products;

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

18           (iv) determine environmentally rel-  
19 evant PFAS; and

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

23           (B) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days  
24 after the date on which the agreement described  
25 in paragraph (1) is finalized, the National

1 Academies shall submit to Congress a report  
2 containing the findings and recommendations of  
3 the study described in subparagraph (A) and  
4 shall make such report available on a publicly  
5 accessible website.

6 (3) PHASE II STUDY AND REPORT ON PFAS  
7 TOXICITY AND HAZARD ESTIMATION.—

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

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

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

21 (iii) identify research needed to ad-  
22 vance toxicity and hazard assessment of in-  
23 dividual or total PFAS.

24 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days  
25 after the date on which the Phase I report is

1 submitted to Congress under paragraph (2), the  
2 National Academies shall submit to Congress a  
3 report containing the findings and recommenda-  
4 tions of the study described in subparagraph  
5 (A) and shall make such report available on a  
6 publicly accessible website.

7 (b) RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND  
8 TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PFAS CONTAMINATION  
9 IN THE ENVIRONMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
12 of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Di-  
13 rector of the National Science Foundation, in con-  
14 sultation with the Secretary of Defense and other  
15 Federal agencies with expertise relevant to the devel-  
16 opment of PFAS alternatives and the management  
17 and treatment of PFAS, shall jointly enter into an  
18 agreement with the National Academies to conduct  
19 a study and submit a report in accordance with this  
20 subsection to better understand the research and de-  
21 velopment needed to advance the understanding of  
22 the extent and implications of environmental con-  
23 tamination by PFAS, how to manage and treat such  
24 contamination, and the development of safe alter-  
25 natives.

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

4           (A) An assessment of the current research  
5 on such issues.

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

8           (C) Recommendations on how the Federal  
9 Government can address the research needs  
10 identified pursuant to subparagraph (B).

11           (D) Recommendations on how research can  
12 best incorporate considerations of socioeconomic  
13 issues into the development of research pro-  
14 posals and the conduct of research.

15           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after  
16 the date on which the agreement described in para-  
17 graph (1) is finalized, the National Academies shall  
18 submit to Congress a report containing the findings  
19 and recommendations of the study described in  
20 paragraph (2) and shall make such report available  
21 on a publicly accessible website.

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

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

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

3 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

4           Not later than 180 days after submission to Congress  
5 of latest of the National Academies reports under section  
6 3, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology  
7 Policy, in coordination with all relevant Federal agencies,  
8 shall submit to Congress an implementation plan for Fed-  
9 eral PFAS research, development, and demonstration ac-  
10 tivities. In preparing such an implementation plan, the Di-  
11 rector shall take into consideration the recommendations  
12 included in the reports in section 3.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14           In this Act:

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

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

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