

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5035

To reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2014

Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. COLLINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and
Technology, 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 “NIST Reauthorization
5 Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 (a) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
9 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce

1 \$850,000,000 for the National Institute of Stand-
2 ards and Technology for fiscal year 2014.

3 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
4 authorized by paragraph (1)—

5 (A) \$651,000,000 shall be for scientific
6 and technical research and services laboratory
7 activities;

8 (B) \$56,000,000 shall be for the construc-
9 tion and maintenance of facilities; and

10 (C) \$143,000,000 shall be for industrial
11 technology services activities, of which
12 \$128,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing
13 Extension Partnership program under sections
14 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Stand-
15 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and
16 278l).

17 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
19 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
20 \$855,800,000 for the National Institute of Stand-
21 ards and Technology for fiscal year 2015.

22 (2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount
23 authorized by paragraph (1)—

1 (A) \$670,500,000 shall be for scientific
2 and technical research and services laboratory
3 activities;

4 (B) \$55,300,000 shall be for the construc-
5 tion and maintenance of facilities; and

6 (C) \$130,000,000 shall be for industrial
7 technology services activities, of which
8 \$130,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing
9 Extension Partnership program under sections
10 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Stand-
11 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and
12 278l).

13 **SEC. 3. STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.**

14 Section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and
15 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
18 by striking “authorized to take” and inserting
19 “authorized to serve as the President’s principal
20 adviser on standards policy pertaining to the
21 Nation’s technological competitiveness and in-
22 novation ability and to take”;

23 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “compare
24 standards” and all that follows through “Fed-
25 eral Government” and inserting “facilitate

standards-related information sharing and co-operation between Federal agencies”; and

(C) in paragraph (13), by striking “Federal, State, and local” and all that follows through “private sector” and inserting “technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities of Federal, State, and local governments with private sector”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (21), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as paragraph (24); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (21) the following:

“(22) participate in and support scientific and technical conferences;

“(23) perform pre-competitive measurement science and technology research in partnership with institutions of higher education and industry to promote United States industrial competitiveness; and”.

SEC. 4. VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

Section 10 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “15 members” and insert-
2 ing “not fewer than 11 members”;

3 (B) by striking “at least 10” and inserting
4 “at least two-thirds”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “The Committee may consult with the National
7 Research Council in making recommendations
8 regarding general policy for the Institute.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “, including
10 the Program established under section 28,”.

11 **SEC. 5. POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITY.**

12 Section 15 of the National Institute of Standards and
13 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278e) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “of the Government; and” and
15 inserting “of the Government;”; and

16 (2) by striking “United States Code.” and in-
17 serting “United States Code; and (i) for the protec-
18 tion of Institute buildings and other plant facilities,
19 equipment, and property, and of employees, associ-
20 ates, visitors, or other persons located therein or as-
21 sociated therewith, notwithstanding any other provi-
22 sion of law.”.

1 **SEC. 6. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

2 The National Institute of Standards and Technology
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by striking sec-
4 tions 18, 19, and 19A and inserting the following:

5 **“SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may support, pro-
7 mote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance pub-
8 lic awareness and understanding of measurement sciences,
9 standards, and technology by the general public, industry,
10 and academia in support of the Institute’s mission.

11 “(b) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award
13 research fellowships and other forms of financial and
14 logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards,
15 to—

16 “(A) students at institutions of higher edu-
17 cation within the United States who show
18 promise as present or future contributors to the
19 mission of the Institute; and

20 “(B) United States citizens for research
21 and technical activities of the Institute.

22 “(2) SELECTION.—The Director shall select
23 persons to receive such fellowships and assistance on
24 the basis of ability and of the relevance of the pro-
25 posed work to the mission and programs of the In-
26 stitute.

1 “(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this
2 subsection, financial and logistical assistance in-
3 cludes, notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31,
4 United States Code, or any contrary provision of
5 law, temporary housing and local transportation to
6 and from the Institute facilities.

7 “(c) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The
8 Director shall establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellow-
9 ship program, subject to the availability of appropriations,
10 that shall include not fewer than 20 fellows per fiscal year.
11 In evaluating applications for fellowships under this sub-
12 section, the Director shall give consideration to the goal
13 of promoting the participation of underrepresented stu-
14 dents in research areas supported by the Institute.”.

15 **SEC. 7. PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING REPORT.**

16 Section 23(d) of the National Institute of Standards
17 and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i(d)) is amended by
18 adding at the end the following: “The 3-year pro-
19 grammatic planning document shall also describe how the
20 Director is addressing recommendations from the Visiting
21 Committee on Advanced Technology established under
22 section 10.”.

1 **SEC. 8. ASSESSMENTS BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUN-**
2 **CIL.**

3 (a) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW.—

4 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Stand-
6 ards and Technology shall enter into a contract with the
7 National Academy of Sciences to conduct a single, com-
8 prehensive review of the Institute's laboratory programs.

9 The review shall—

10 (1) assess the technical merits and scientific
11 caliber of the research conducted at the laboratories;

12 (2) examine the strengths and weaknesses of
13 the 2010 laboratory reorganization on the Institute's
14 ability to fulfill its mission;

15 (3) evaluate how cross-cutting research and de-
16 velopment activities are planned, coordinated, and
17 executed across the laboratories; and

18 (4) assess how the laboratories are engaging in-
19 dustry, including the incorporation of industry need,
20 into the research goals and objectives of the Insti-
21 tute.

22 (b) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—Section 24 of the
23 National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15
24 U.S.C. 278j) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 24. ASSESSMENTS BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH**
2 **COUNCIL.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall contract with
4 the National Research Council to perform and report on
5 assessments of the technical quality and impact of the
6 work conducted at Institute laboratories.

7 “(b) SCHEDULE.—Two laboratories shall be assessed
8 under subsection (a) each year, and each laboratory shall
9 be assessed at least once every 3 years.

10 “(c) SUMMARY REPORT.—Beginning in the year
11 after the first assessment is conducted under subsection
12 (a), and once every two years thereafter, the Institute shall
13 contract with the National Research Council to prepare
14 a report that summarizes the findings common across the
15 individual assessment reports.

16 “(d) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Institute, at
17 the discretion of the Director, also may contract with the
18 National Research Council to conduct additional assess-
19 ments of Institute programs and projects that involve col-
20 laboration across the Institute laboratories and centers
21 and assessments of selected scientific and technical topics.

22 “(e) CONSULTATION WITH VISITING COMMITTEE ON
23 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.—The National Research Coun-
24 cil may consult with the Visiting Committee on Advanced
25 Technology established under section 10 in performing the
26 assessments under this section.

1 “(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the
2 completion of each assessment, the Institute shall transmit
3 the report on such assessment to the Committee on
4 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
6 and Transportation of the Senate.”.

7 **SEC. 9. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNER-**
8 **SHIP.**

9 Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and
10 Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PART-**
13 **NERSHIP.**

14 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the
16 Director and, if appropriate, through other officials,
17 shall provide assistance for the creation and support
18 of manufacturing extension centers, to be known as
19 the ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension Centers’, for
20 the transfer of manufacturing technology and best
21 business practices (in this Act referred to as the
22 ‘Centers’). The program under this section shall be
23 known as the ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension
24 Partnership’.

1 “(2) AFFILIATIONS.—Such Centers shall be af-
2 filiated with any United States-based public or non-
3 profit institution or organization, or group thereof,
4 that applies for and is awarded financial assistance
5 under this section.

6 “(3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Centers
7 is to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and
8 technological performance in United States manufac-
9 turing through—

10 “(A) the transfer of manufacturing tech-
11 nology and techniques developed at the Insti-
12 tute to Centers and, through them, to manufac-
13 turing companies throughout the United States;

14 “(B) the participation of individuals from
15 industry, institutions of higher education, State
16 governments, other Federal agencies, and, when
17 appropriate, the Institute in cooperative tech-
18 nology transfer activities;

19 “(C) efforts to make new manufacturing
20 technology and processes usable by United
21 States-based small and medium-sized compa-
22 nies;

23 “(D) the active dissemination of scientific,
24 engineering, technical, and management infor-
25 mation about manufacturing to industrial firms,

1 including small and medium-sized manufac-
2 turing companies;

3 “(E) the utilization, when appropriate, of
4 the expertise and capability that exists in Fed-
5 eral laboratories other than the Institute;

6 “(F) the provision to community colleges
7 and area career and technical education schools
8 of information about the job skills needed in
9 small and medium-sized manufacturing busi-
10 nesses in the regions they serve; and

11 “(G) promoting and expanding certifi-
12 cation systems offered through industry, asso-
13 ciations, and local colleges, when appropriate.

14 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Centers shall
15 include—

16 “(1) the establishment of automated manufac-
17 turing systems and other advanced production tech-
18 nologies, based on Institute-supported research, for
19 the purpose of demonstrations and technology trans-
20 fer;

21 “(2) the active transfer and dissemination of re-
22 search findings and Center expertise to a wide range
23 of companies and enterprises, particularly small and
24 medium-sized manufacturers; and

1 “(3) the facilitation of collaborations and part-
2 nerships between small and medium-sized manufac-
3 turing companies and community colleges and area
4 career and technical education schools to help such
5 colleges and schools better understand the specific
6 needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers
7 better understand the skill sets that students learn
8 in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

9 “(c) OPERATIONS.—

10 “(1) FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary may
11 provide financial support to any Center created
12 under subsection (a). The Secretary may not provide
13 to a Center more than 50 percent of the capital and
14 annual operating and maintenance funds required to
15 create and maintain such Center.

16 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall im-
17 plement, review, and update the sections of the Code
18 of Federal Regulations related to this section at
19 least once every 3 years.

20 “(3) APPLICATION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nonprofit institu-
22 tion, or consortium thereof, or State or local
23 government, may submit to the Secretary an
24 application for financial support under this sec-

tion, in accordance with the procedures established by the Secretary.

“(B) COST SHARING.—In order to receive assistance under this section, an applicant for financial assistance under subparagraph (A) shall provide adequate assurances that non-Federal assets obtained from the applicant and the applicant’s partnering organizations will be used as a funding source to meet not less than 50 percent of the costs incurred. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the costs incurred means the costs incurred in connection with the activities undertaken to improve the competitiveness, management, productivity, and technological performance of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

“(C) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the 50 percent requirement, it is anticipated that a Center will enter into agreements with other entities such as private industry, institutions of higher education, and State governments to accomplish programmatic objectives and access new and existing resources that will further the impact of the Federal in-

1 vestment made on behalf of small and medium-
2 sized manufacturing companies.

3 “(D) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant
4 under subparagraph (A) shall also submit a
5 proposal for the allocation of the legal rights as-
6 sociated with any invention which may result
7 from the proposed Center’s activities.

8 “(4) MERIT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall sub-
9 ject each such application to merit review. In mak-
10 ing a decision whether to approve such application
11 and provide financial support under this section, the
12 Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(A) The merits of the application, par-
15 ticularly those portions of the application re-
16 garding technology transfer, training and edu-
17 cation, and adaptation of manufacturing tech-
18 nologies to the needs of particular industrial
19 sectors.

20 “(B) The quality of service to be provided.

21 “(C) Geographical diversity and extent of
22 service area.

23 “(D) The percentage of funding and
24 amount of in-kind commitment from other
25 sources.

1 “(5) EVALUATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Center that re-
3 ceives financial assistance under this section
4 shall be evaluated during its third year of oper-
5 ation by an evaluation panel appointed by the
6 Secretary.

7 “(B) COMPOSITION.—Each such evalua-
8 tion panel shall be composed of private experts,
9 none of whom shall be connected with the in-
10 volved Center, and Federal officials.

11 “(C) CHAIR.—An official of the Institute
12 shall chair the panel.

13 “(D) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—
14 Each evaluation panel shall measure the in-
15 volved Center’s performance against the objec-
16 tives specified in this section.

17 “(E) POSITIVE EVALUATION.—If the eval-
18 uation is positive, the Secretary may provide
19 continued funding through the sixth year.

20 “(F) PROBATION.—The Secretary shall
21 not provide funding unless the Center has re-
22 ceived a positive evaluation. A Center that has
23 not received a positive evaluation by the evalua-
24 tion panel shall be notified by the panel of the
25 deficiencies in its performance and shall be

1 placed on probation for one year, after which
2 time the panel shall reevaluate the Center. If
3 the Center has not addressed the deficiencies
4 identified by the panel, or shown a significant
5 improvement in its performance, the Director
6 shall conduct a new competition to select an op-
7 erator for the Center or may close the Center.

8 “(G) ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—

9 After the sixth year, a Center may receive addi-
10 tional financial support under this section if it
11 has received a positive evaluation through an
12 independent review, under procedures estab-
13 lished by the Institute.

14 “(H) EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW.—A Center

15 shall undergo an independent review in the 8th
16 year of operation. Each evaluation panel shall
17 measure the Center’s performance against the
18 objectives specified in this section. A Center
19 that has not received a positive evaluation as a
20 result of an independent review shall be notified
21 by the Program of the deficiencies in its per-
22 formance and shall be placed on probation for
23 one year, after which time the Program shall
24 reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not ad-
25 dressed the deficiencies identified by the review,

1 or shown a significant improvement in its per-
2 formance, the Director shall conduct a new
3 competition to select an operator for the Center
4 or may close the Center.

5 “(I) RECOMPETITION.—If a recipient of a
6 Center award has received financial assistance
7 for 10 consecutive years, the Director shall con-
8 duct a new competition to select an operator for
9 the Center consistent with the plan required in
10 this Act. Incumbent Center operators in good
11 standing shall be eligible to compete for the new
12 award.

13 “(J) REPORTS.—

14 “(i) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date of enactment of the NIST
16 Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Director
17 shall transmit to the Committee on
18 Science, Space, and Technology of the
19 House of Representatives and the Com-
20 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
21 portation of the Senate a plan as to how
22 the Institute will conduct reviews, assess-
23 ments, and reapplication competitions
24 under this paragraph.

1 “(ii) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

2 The Director shall contract with an inde-
3 pendent organization to perform an assess-
4 ment of the implementation of the re-
5 application competition process under this
6 paragraph within 3 years after the trans-
7 mittal of the report under clause (i). The
8 organization conducting the assessment
9 under this clause may consult with the
10 MEP Advisory Board.

11 “(iii) COMPARISON OF CENTERS.—

12 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
13 actment of the NIST Reauthorization Act
14 of 2014, the Director shall transmit to the
15 Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
16 nology of the House of Representatives
17 and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
18 and Transportation of the Senate a report
19 providing information on the first and sec-
20 ond years of operations for centers oper-
21 ating from new competitions or recompeti-
22 tion as compared to longstanding centers.
23 The report shall provide detail on the en-
24 gagement in services provided by Centers
25 and the characteristics of services pro-

1 vided, including volume and type of serv-
2 ices, so that the Committees can evaluate
3 whether the cost-sharing ratio has an ef-
4 fect on the services provided at Centers.

5 “(6) PATENT RIGHTS.—The provisions of chap-
6 ter 18 of title 35, United States Code, shall apply,
7 to the extent not inconsistent with this section, to
8 the promotion of technology from research by Cen-
9 ters under this section except for contracts for such
10 specific technology extension or transfer services as
11 may be specified by statute or by the Director.

12 “(7) PROTECTION OF CENTER CLIENT CON-
13 FIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Section 552 of title 5,
14 United States Code, shall apply to the following in-
15 formation obtained by the Federal Government on a
16 confidential basis in connection with the activities of
17 any participant involved in the Hollings Manufac-
18 turing Extension Partnership:

19 “(A) Information on the business operation
20 of any participant in a Hollings Manufacturing
21 Extension Partnership program or of a client of
22 a Center.

23 “(B) Trade secrets possessed by any client
24 of a Center.

1 “(8) ADVISORY BOARDS.—Each Center’s advi-
2 sory boards shall institute a conflict of interest pol-
3 icy, approved by the Director, that ensures the
4 Board represents local small and medium-sized man-
5 ufacturers in the Center’s region. Board Members
6 may not serve as a vendor or provide services to the
7 Center, nor may they serve on more than one Cen-
8 ter’s oversight board simultaneously.

9 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to such sums
11 as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Direc-
12 tor to operate the Hollings Manufacturing Extension
13 Partnership, the Secretary and Director also may
14 accept funds from other Federal departments and
15 agencies and, under section 2(c)(7), from the private
16 sector for the purpose of strengthening United
17 States manufacturing.

18 “(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

19 “(A) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM OTHER FED-
20 ERAL DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—The Di-
21 rector shall determine whether funds accepted
22 from other Federal departments or agencies
23 shall be counted in the calculation of the Fed-
24 eral share of capital and annual operating and
25 maintenance costs under subsection (c).

1 “(B) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM THE PRI-
2 VATE SECTOR.—Funds accepted from the pri-
3 vate sector under section 2(c)(7), if allocated to
4 a Center, may not be considered in the calcula-
5 tion of the Federal share under subsection (c)
6 of this section.

7 “(e) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
9 within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension
10 Partnership Advisory Board (in this subsection re-
11 ferred to as the ‘MEP Advisory Board’).

12 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory
14 Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 mem-
15 bers broadly representative of stakeholders, to
16 be appointed by the Director. At least 2 mem-
17 bers shall be employed by or on an advisory
18 board for the Centers, at least 1 member shall
19 represent a community college, and at least 5
20 other members shall be from United States
21 small businesses in the manufacturing sector.
22 No member shall be an employee of the Federal
23 Government.

24 “(B) TERM.—Except as provided in sub-
25 paragraph (C) or (D), the term of office of each

1 member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3
2 years.

3 “(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
4 to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expira-
5 tion of the term for which his predecessor was
6 appointed shall be appointed for the remainder
7 of such term.

8 “(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—
9 Any person who has completed two consecutive
10 full terms of service on the MEP Advisory
11 Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appoint-
12 ment during the one-year period following the
13 expiration of the second such term.

14 “(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board
15 shall meet not less than 2 times annually and shall
16 provide to the Director—

17 “(A) advice on Hollings Manufacturing
18 Extension Partnership programs, plans, and
19 policies;

20 “(B) assessments of the soundness of Hol-
21 lings Manufacturing Extension Partnership
22 plans and strategies; and

23 “(C) assessments of current performance
24 against Hollings Manufacturing Extension
25 Partnership program plans.

1 “(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AP-
2 PLICABILITY.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its du-
4 ties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory
5 Board shall function solely in an advisory ca-
6 pacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory
7 Committee Act.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Fed-
9 eral Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to
10 the MEP Advisory Board.

11 “(5) REPORT.—The MEP Advisory Board shall
12 transmit an annual report to the Secretary for
13 transmittal to Congress within 30 days after the
14 submission to Congress of the President’s annual
15 budget request in each year. Such report shall ad-
16 dress the status of the program established pursuant
17 to this section and comment on the relevant sections
18 of the programmatic planning document and updates
19 thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director
20 under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23.

21 “(f) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

22 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall es-
23 tablish, within the Hollings Manufacturing Exten-
24 sion Partnership, under this section and section 26,
25 a program of competitive awards among participants

1 described in paragraph (2) for the purposes de-
2 scribed in paragraph (3).

3 “(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving
4 awards under this subsection shall be the Centers, or
5 a consortium of such Centers.

6 “(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program
7 under this subsection is to add capabilities to the
8 Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, in-
9 cluding the development of projects to solve new or
10 emerging manufacturing problems as determined by
11 the Director, in consultation with the Director of the
12 Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership pro-
13 gram, the MEP Advisory Board, and small and me-
14 dium-sized manufacturers. One or more themes for
15 the competition may be identified, which may vary
16 from year to year, depending on the needs of manu-
17 facturers and the success of previous competitions.
18 Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred under
19 the program.

20 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards
21 under this subsection shall be submitted in such
22 manner, at such time, and containing such informa-
23 tion as the Director shall require, in consultation
24 with the MEP Advisory Board.

1 “(5) SELECTION.—Awards under this sub-
2 section shall be peer reviewed and competitively
3 awarded. The Director shall endeavor to have broad
4 geographic diversity among selected proposals. The
5 Director shall select proposals to receive awards that
6 will—

7 “(A) improve the competitiveness of indus-
8 tries in the region in which the Center or Cen-
9 ters are located;

10 “(B) create jobs or train newly hired em-
11 ployees; and

12 “(C) promote the transfer and commer-
13 cialization of research and technology from in-
14 stitutions of higher education, national labora-
15 tories, and nonprofit research institutes.

16 “(6) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of
17 awards under this subsection shall not be required
18 to provide a matching contribution.

19 “(7) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In
20 making awards under this subsection, the Director,
21 in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and
22 the Secretary, may take into consideration whether
23 an application has significant potential for enhance-
24 ing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized

1 United States manufacturers in the global market-
2 place.

3 “(8) DURATION.—Awards under this subsection
4 shall last no longer than 3 years.

5 “(g) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES UNIQUE TO SMALL
6 MANUFACTURERS.—The Director shall—

7 “(1) evaluate obstacles that are unique to small
8 manufacturers that prevent such manufacturers
9 from effectively competing in the global market;

10 “(2) implement a comprehensive plan to train
11 the Centers to address such obstacles; and

12 “(3) facilitate improved communication between
13 the Centers to assist such manufacturers in imple-
14 menting appropriate, targeted solutions to such ob-
15 stacles.

16 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 “(1) the term ‘area career and technical edu-
18 cation school’ has the meaning given such term in
19 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
20 nical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (20
21 U.S.C. 2302); and

22 “(2) the term ‘community college’ means an in-
23 stitution of higher education (as defined under sec-
24 tion 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
25 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree

1 that is predominately awarded to students is an as-
2 sociate's degree.”.

3 **SEC. 10. ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTS.**

4 (a) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION
5 AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES REPORT.—Section 3
6 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C.
7 278g–5) is amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (c); and

9 (2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
10 subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

11 (b) TIP REPORTS.—Section 28 of the National Insti-
12 tute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n)
13 is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsection (g); and

15 (2) in subsection (k), by striking paragraph (5).

16 **SEC. 11. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE**
17 **AGREEMENTS.**

18 Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology In-
19 novation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by
20 striking “The total amount of any such grant or coopera-
21 tive agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost
22 of the program.”.

1 **SEC. 12. INFORMATION SYSTEMS STANDARDS CONSULTA-**
2 **TION.**

3 Section 20(c)(1) of the National Institute of Stand-
4 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3(c)(1)) is
5 amended by striking “the National Security Agency,”.

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