

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3709

To promote the growth of science and technology in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1996

Mr. BROWN of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on Science

A BILL

To promote the growth of science and technology in the
United States.

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 “Opportunities in
5 Science and Technology Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) a citizenry knowledgeable in science and
9 technology is a necessity as the United States enters
10 the twenty-first century;

1 (2) the Nation's nonprofit science-technology
2 centers provide an important resource in enhancing
3 scientific literacy;

4 (3) the Nation's junior or community colleges
5 can be an effective means of fostering knowledge of
6 science and technology both for full-time students
7 and for the wider community; and

8 (4) the provision of resources for the acquisition
9 and upgrading of facilities and equipment for foster-
10 ing knowledge of science and technology at nonprofit
11 institutions is in the national interest.

12 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIP-**
13 **MENT AND FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND**
14 **TECHNOLOGY.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Na-
16 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director
17 of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of
18 Energy shall establish a joint program of competitive,
19 merit-reviewed awards in support of instructional equip-
20 ment and facilities for science and technology.

21 (b) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—The program estab-
22 lished under subsection (a) shall make awards annually
23 for the purpose of providing and upgrading facilities and
24 equipment at nonprofit institutions engaged in fostering

1 knowledge of science and technology. Awards made under
2 this section shall be subject to the following limitations:

3 (1) No funds shall be used for salaries, or for
4 expenses not directly related to fostering knowledge
5 of science and technology.

6 (2) At least 25 percent of the funds provided
7 annually shall be for grants to junior or community
8 colleges.

9 (3) At least 25 percent of the funds provided
10 annually shall be for science-technology centers.

11 (4) At least 25 percent of the funds provided
12 annually shall be provided for—

13 (A) the purchase of audiovisual equipment,
14 interactive displays, and other equipment; and

15 (B) the development or acquisition of ma-
16 terials, to be used in fostering knowledge of
17 science and technology.

18 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The joint program estab-
19 lished under subsection (a) shall annually issue announce-
20 ments of opportunity for awards. The National Aero-
21 nautics and Space Administration, the National Science
22 Foundation, and the Department of Energy shall jointly
23 establish and publish the criteria for selection of awards
24 under the program. Responses to the announcements shall
25 be evaluated and ranked by a review committee whose

1 members shall be selected by the Administrator of the Na-
2 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director
3 of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of
4 Energy.

5 (d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

6 (1) the term “informal science education”
7 means those aspects of science education that occur
8 outside the school classroom, usually voluntary, rec-
9 reational, and interdisciplinary in nature, that are
10 not directed by a specific curriculum;

11 (2) the term “junior or community college” has
12 the meaning given such term in section 312(e) of the
13 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(e));

14 (3) the term “science” means all physical, bio-
15 logical, and social sciences, mathematics, and engi-
16 neering; and

17 (4) the term “science-technology center”, which
18 may include museums, planetariums, libraries, and
19 zoos, means a nonprofit institution open to the gen-
20 eral public providing interactive exhibits, demonstra-
21 tions, and informal science education designed to—

22 (A) further public understanding of science
23 and technology; and

24 (B) illustrate how such science and tech-
25 nology interacts with society,

1 and such institutions may also be involved in formal
2 educational activities.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
4 purpose of carrying out this Act, there are authorized to
5 be appropriated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1997,
6 \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and \$30,000,000 for fis-
7 cal year 1999, with such amounts, to the extent prac-
8 ticable, to be equally divided among the National Aero-
9 nautics and Space Administration, the National Science
10 Foundation, and the Department of Energy.

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