

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the feasibility of Historically Black Colleges and Universities achieving a certain classification.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WARNOCK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the feasibility of Historically Black Colleges and Universities achieving a certain classification.

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 “Increase America’s Re-
5 search Capacity Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
2 VERSITY.—The term “Historically Black College or
3 University” means a part B institution described in
4 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
5 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

6 (2) R1 INSTITUTION.—The term “R1 institu-
7 tion” means an institution classified as an R1 doc-
8 toral university, according to the Carnegie Classi-
9 fication of Institutions of Higher Education frame-
10 work as the framework exists on the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act, by the issuer of the framework.

12 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REPORTS ON**
13 **REDUNDANCIES AND DUPLICATIVE ACTIVI-**
14 **TIES AND FUNCTIONS.**

15 (a) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Not later than 1
16 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 of Commerce shall prepare and submit to Congress a re-
18 port that contains—

19 (1) a description of programmatic and organi-
20 zational redundancies, and duplicative activities and
21 functions, for programs within the Department of
22 Commerce that provide support for scientific re-
23 search at Historically Black Colleges and Univer-
24 sities; and

1 (2) a plan to implement necessary reforms and
2 ensure each office that provides support as described
3 in paragraph (1) has the leadership, independence,
4 policies, and procedures to properly carry out its re-
5 sponsibilities in providing that support.

6 (b) FEDERAL RESEARCH AGENCIES.—

7 (1) REPORTS INCLUDING STRATEGIC PLANS.—

8 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and
10 Technology Policy, in collaboration with the head of
11 each Federal research agency, shall prepare and sub-
12 mit to Congress a report describing programmatic
13 and organizational redundancies, and duplicative ac-
14 tivities and functions, for programs that provide
15 support as described in subsection (a)(1) and a stra-
16 tegic plan to consolidate across each Federal re-
17 search agency efforts (including through awards) to
18 provide that support for Historically Black Colleges
19 and Universities.

20 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing a stra-
21 tegic plan under paragraph (1), the Director and the
22 head of each Federal research agency shall consider
23 how the consolidation involved would allow the Fed-
24 eral research agencies to carry out 1 or more of the
25 following:

1 (A) Issuing new or expanding existing (as
2 of the date of the issuance) funding opportuni-
3 ties targeted to Historically Black Colleges and
4 Universities.

5 (B) Modifying solicitations for existing (as
6 of the date of the modification) research (in-
7 cluding development) programs to incentivize
8 effective partnerships with Historically Black
9 Colleges and Universities.

10 (C) Offering planning awards for Histori-
11 cally Black Colleges and Universities to develop
12 or equip award officers with the requisite depth
13 of knowledge to submit competitive proposals
14 for and manage awards.

15 (D) Offering additional training programs,
16 including providing individualized and timely
17 guidance, to award officers, faculty, and
18 postdoctoral researchers at Historically Black
19 Colleges and Universities to ensure their under-
20 standing of the requirements for an effective
21 proposal for an award.

22 (E) Other approaches for making funding
23 through competitive funding models more acces-
24 sible for underresourced Historically Black Col-
25 leges and Universities.

1 Technology of the Department of Com-
2 merce, and similar offices of the Depart-
3 ment of Commerce;

4 (ii) strategies for Historically Black
5 Colleges and Universities to recruit and re-
6 tain highly qualified faculty with strong re-
7 search backgrounds; and

8 (iii) best practices and successful
9 models employed by R1 institutions (as of
10 the date the study is completed) that His-
11 torically Black Colleges and Universities
12 can adopt; and

13 (B) prepare recommendations for Federal
14 support and initiatives to facilitate the advance-
15 ment of Historically Black Colleges and Univer-
16 sities in research and innovation.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
19 shall submit a report containing the results of the study,
20 and recommendations for such legislative and administra-
21 tive action as the Comptroller General determines to be
22 appropriate, to the appropriate committees of Congress
23 and the Congressional Research Service.