

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6924

To authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on at-home testing for the detection of current infection with the virus that causes COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2020

Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on at-home testing for the detection of current infection with the virus that causes COVID–19, 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 “At-Home Testing Prize
5 Competitions Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Prize competitions have been used through-
4 out America's history, dating back to the designing
5 of the United States Capitol Building in 1792.

6 (2) The America COMPETES Reauthorization
7 Act of 2010 granted authority for Federal agencies
8 to carry out prize competitions in order to stimulate
9 innovation to advance each agency's mission.

10 (3) Prize competitions provide a benefit to the
11 American people by providing a high reward return
12 on taxpayer dollars.

13 (4) Since 2010, Federal agencies have con-
14 ducted nearly 1,000 prize competitions to help ad-
15 dress some of our Nation's greatest challenges.

16 (5) In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-
17 19, Americans needs access to rapid diagnostic test-
18 ing in their homes.

19 (6) At-home infectious disease tests provide re-
20 sults in real time, rather than in hours or days.

21 (7) Infectious disease tests are useful in re-
22 source-limited situations where there may not be ac-
23 cess to a central laboratory or where infrastructure
24 is limited for transporting samples. At-home infec-
25 tious disease tests can also lead to prompter treat-
26 ment, which can prevent infections from spreading.

1 (8) Although other Federal agencies are cur-
2 rently involved in supporting and conducting re-
3 search into at-home testing, research spurred by
4 prize competitions at the National Institutes of
5 Health in consultation with the National Institute of
6 Standards and Technology can have broader benefits
7 for the American public.

8 (9) The National Institute of Standards and
9 Technology, due to its expertise in materials meas-
10 urement, including for DNA and other biological
11 materials, is well positioned to support the National
12 Institutes of Health in the development of reference
13 materials and best practices for the assessment and
14 validation of COVID–19 test results.

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIZE COMPETITION FOR RE-**
16 **SEARCH ON COVID–19 AT-HOME TESTING.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
18 stitutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the
19 National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall
20 carry out prize competitions pursuant to section 24 of the
21 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
22 U.S.C. 3719) to incentivize research by institutions of
23 higher education on at-home testing for the detection of
24 current infection with the virus that causes COVID–19.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for funding
2 under this section, the at-home testing subject to the pro-
3 posed research must be capable of—

4 (1) being self-administered; and

5 (2) producing results in 30 minutes or less.

6 (c) TIMING.—The Director of the National Institutes
7 of Health shall—

8 (1) publicize at least one prize competition pur-
9 suant to subsection (a) within 30 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act; and

11 (2) publicize additional prize competitions pur-
12 suant to subsection (a) as determined appropriate by
13 the Director.

14 (d) NIST ASSISTANCE.—The Director of the Na-
15 tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall provide
16 assistance to the Director of the National Institutes of
17 Health on developing validation protocols and standards
18 for testing developed pursuant to this section.

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