117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION  
H. R. _____

To enable high research activity status historically Black colleges or universities to increase capacity toward achieving very high research activity status, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ADAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________

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A BILL

To enable high research activity status historically Black colleges or universities to increase capacity toward achieving very high research activity status, 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 “HBCU Research, In-
5 novation, Security, and Excellence Act”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:
(1) Historically Black colleges and universities hold a unique position in the efforts of the United States to diversify the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics academic and workforce communities.

(2) Although our Nation’s historically Black colleges and universities make up just 3 percent of the colleges and universities in the United States, historically Black colleges and universities graduate 25 percent of African-American students with baccalaureate degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(3) Historically Black colleges and universities are the institution of origin for almost 30 percent of Black graduates of science and engineering doctorate programs.

(4) The health of the Department of Defense and the United States research ecosystem relies on high quality researchers from a diverse talent pool.

(5) Historically Black colleges and universities have a history of conducting high quality research in unique areas, both providing impactful research outcomes and developing the next generation of the research ecosystem, including by—
(A) conducting high quality research in unique areas that has enriched the Department of Defense research enterprise and the United States research ecosystem, including—

(i) providing science and engineering faculty research opportunities at U.S. Navy Laboratories;

(ii) a “Young Investigators Program” at the Air Force Research Laboratory supporting basic and applied research on aerospace systems (RQ), materials and manufacturing (RX), and information (RI); and

(iii) Centers of Excellence in biotechnology and materials science; and

(B) strengthening and diversifying the United States research ecosystem by increasing the number of students who are students of diverse backgrounds from historically Black colleges and universities with undergraduate or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; and

(C) fueling domestic and international collaborations that led to trailblazing discoveries and innovative technologies.
(6) In 2019, historically Black colleges and universities received $371,000,000, or about 0.8 percent of the $44,500,000,000 in Federal funding to institutions of higher education for research and development. The amount of funding for 2019 is a marked decrease from fiscal year 2018, when historically Black colleges and universities received $400,000,000 in Federal research and development funding (0.9 percent of the Federal funding to institutions of higher education for such purposes).

(7) There are no historically Black colleges and universities designated as very high research activity status, as classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

(8) Meaningfully investing in the research capacity of historically Black colleges and universities is an investment in our Nation’s future and will help meet accelerating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce demands and safeguard the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the program established under this Act is to provide additional pathways needed for further increasing capacity at historically Black colleges and uni-
versities to achieve and maintain very high research activity status.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligible institution” means a historically Black college or university that is classified as a high research activity status institution at the time of application for a grant under section 5.

(2) HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS.—The term “high research activity status” means R2 status, as classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

(3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Defense.

(5) VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS.—The term “very high research activity status” means R1 status, as classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.
(6) VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS

INDICATORS.—The term “very high research activity status indicators” means the categories used by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education to delineate which institutions have very high activity status, including—

(A) annual expenditures in science and engineering;
(B) per-capita (faculty member) expenditures in science and engineering;
(C) annual expenditures in non-science and engineering fields;
(D) per-capita (faculty member) expenditures in non-science and engineering fields;
(E) doctorates awarded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields;
(F) doctorates awarded in social science fields;
(G) doctorates awarded in the humanities;
(H) doctorates awarded in other fields with a research emphasis;
(I) total number of research staff including postdoctoral researchers;
(J) other doctorate-holding non-faculty researchers in science and engineering and per-
capita (faculty) number of doctorate-level research staff including post-doctoral researchers; and

(K) other categories utilized to determine classification.

SEC. 5. PROGRAM TO INCREASE CAPACITY TOWARD ACHIEVING VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY STATUS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES.

(a) Program.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out, using funds made available for research activities, a pilot program to increase capacity at high research activity status historically Black colleges and universities toward achieving very high research activity status during the grant period.

(2) Recommendations.—In establishing such program, the Secretary may consider the recommendations pursuant to section 262 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C. 2362 note) and section 220 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81).
(b) Grants Authorized.—The Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, grants to eligible institutions to carry out the activities under subsection (d)(1).

(c) Application.—An eligible institution seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including a description of—

(1) nascent research capabilities with respect to research areas of interest to the Department of Defense;

(2) a plan for increasing the level of research activity toward achieving very high research activity status classification during the grant period, including measurable milestones such as growth in very high research activity status indicators and other relevant factors;

(3) how such institution will sustain the increased level of research activity after the conclusion of the grant period; and

(4) how the institution will evaluate and assess progress with respect to the implementation of the plan under paragraph (2).

(d) Program Components.—
(1) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to support research activities with respect to research areas for STEM and critical technologies, as determined by the Secretary under paragraph (2), including—

(A) faculty professional development;

(B) stipends for undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral scholars;

(C) laboratory equipment and instrumentation;

(D) recruitment and retention of faculty and graduate students;

(E) communication and dissemination of products produced during the grant period;

(F) construction, modernization, rehabilitation, or retrofitting of facilities for research purposes; and

(G) other activities necessary to build capacity in achieving very high research activity status indicators.

(2) STRATEGIC AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Defense Science Board, shall establish and update,
on an annual basis, a list of research areas for
STEM and critical technologies.

(3) RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
after receiving a grant under this section, and
every 3 years thereafter, an eligible institution
shall submit to the Secretary—

(i) a report that includes an assess-
ment by the institution, using the criteria
established in subparagraph (B), of the
progress made by such institution with re-
spect to achieving very high research activ-
ity indicators; and

(ii) an updated plan described in sub-
section (c)(2).

(B) RESEARCH ASSESSMENT.—The Sec-
retary, in partnership with the eligible institu-
tion, shall establish criteria for the report re-
quired under subparagraph (A)(i).

(4) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
this section shall be for a period of not more than
10 years, to be determined by the Secretary.

(5) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Sec-
retary may award grants under this section to his-
torically Black colleges and universities that are not
eligible institutions if the Secretary determines that
the program can support such colleges and univer-
sities while achieving the purpose of the program de-
scribed in section 3.

(e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
pare and submit a report to the Committee on Armed
Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Serv-
ices of the House of Representatives providing an update
on the pilot program, including—

(1) activities carried out under the pilot pro-
gram;

(2) an analysis of the growth in very high re-
search activity status indicators of eligible institu-
tions that received a grant under this section; and

(3) emerging research areas of interest to the
Department of Defense conducted by eligible institu-
tions that received a grant under this section.

(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary to
award grants under the pilot program established by this
section shall terminate 10 years after the date on which
the Secretary establishes such program.

(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
after the termination of the pilot program under sub-
section (f), the Secretary shall prepare and submit a re-
port to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on the pilot program that includes the following:

(1) An analysis of the growth in very high research activity status indicators of eligible institutions that received a grant under this section.

(2) An evaluation on the effectiveness of the program in increasing the research capacity of eligible institutions that received a grant under this section.

(3) An description of how institutions that have achieved very high research activity status plan to sustain that status beyond the duration of the program.

(4) An evaluation of the maintenance of very high research status by eligible institutions that received a grant under this section.

(5) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in increasing the diversity of students conducting high quality research in unique areas.

(6) Recommendations with respect to further activities and investments necessary to elevate the research status of historically Black colleges and universities.
(7) Recommendations on whether the program established under this section should be renewed or expanded.