H.R. 4521, the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021

Section 1: Short Title

Section 2: Findings. Provides Findings for the legislation.

Section 3: Definitions. Defines terms in the legislation

Section 4: National Engineering Biology Research and Development Program.
   (a) In General – Establishes a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Program to advance engineering biology research; expand the number of engineering biology researchers; accelerate the translation and commercialization of engineering biology; and improve interagency planning and coordination of federal engineering biology research initiatives.
   (b) Activities – Describes the activities to be supported under the Initiative, including support for research, tools and technologies to advance research, databases, education, and translation and commercialization of research.
   (c) Expanding Participation – Requires outreach to minority serving institutions and primarily undergraduate institutions.
   (d) Ethical, Legal, Environmental, Safety, Security, and Societal Issues - Describes how the Program should take into account a wide range of potential societal issues, including through research focused on those issues, public engagement, and compliance with all applicable laws.

Section 5: Initiative Coordination. Designates an Interagency Committee that would oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Program; requires the Interagency Committee to prepare a triennial report to Congress; establishes an Initiative coordination office.

Section 6: Advisory Committee. Requires an Advisory Committee of non-Federal members to provide advice on the Program; charges the Committee with specific duties; and requires the Committee to report on their findings and recommendations at least every 3 years.

Section 7: External Review of Ethical, Environmental, and Societal Concerns. Requires a National Academy of Sciences review of the ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology research and development.

Section 8: Agency Activities: Describes specific Program activities and responsibilities for NSF, NIST, NOAA, DOE, NASA, USDA, EPA, and HHS.

Section 9: Rule of Construction. Restates applicability of current law under 5 U.S.C. 552.