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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To streamline the process for institutions of higher education to research  
marijuana.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To streamline the process for institutions of higher education  
to research marijuana.

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 “Higher Education  
5 Marijuana Research Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. MARIJUANA FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.**

7 (a) PRIORITY FACTORS.—Section 303(a) of the Con-  
8 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(a)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and  
2           inserting a semicolon;

3           (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at  
4           the end and inserting “; and”; and

5           (3) by adding the following:

6           “(7) whether the applicant is an institution of  
7           higher education or a State or local government enti-  
8           ty.”.

9           (b) REPORT ON CERTAIN LICENSES.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11           after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-  
12           nually thereafter, the Attorney General, acting  
13           through the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall  
14           submit a report to Committee on the Judiciary of  
15           the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16           the Judiciary of the Senate, including—

17                   (A) the number of applications for licenses  
18                   under section 303 of the Controlled Substances  
19                   Act (21 U.S.C. 823) it has received for the pre-  
20                   vious year, disaggregated by whether the appli-  
21                   cant was a private entity, an institution of high-  
22                   er education, or a State or local government en-  
23                   tity;

24                   (B) the status of each application received  
25                   in the previous year; and

1 (C) if applicable, the reason an application  
2 was denied.

3 (2) NAME WITH CONSENT.—With the consent  
4 of the applicant, the Attorney General, acting  
5 through the Drug Enforcement Administration, may  
6 submit in the report under subparagraph (A) the  
7 name of the applicant.

8 (c) OBTAINING MARIJUANA FOR RESEARCH PUR-  
9 POSES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provi-  
11 sion of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.  
12 801 et seq.), the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and  
13 Communities Act (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), or any  
14 other Federal law, an institution of higher education  
15 located in a State or on tribal land where marijuana  
16 sale or use is lawful may obtain or purchase mari-  
17 juana from a State or tribal government marijuana  
18 regulatory body or obtain marijuana from a State or  
19 tribal law enforcement agency for the purpose of bio-  
20 logical, chemical, agricultural, or public health re-  
21 search.

22 (2) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PURPOSES.—Mari-  
23 juana obtained by an institution of higher education  
24 pursuant to paragraph (1) may be used to study the  
25 type of marijuana in a State’s marketplace, public

1 health considerations of marijuana policies in the  
2 State, and any potential medical benefits of mari-  
3 juana.

4 (3) PROHIBITED RESEARCH PURPOSES.—Mari-  
5 juana obtained by an institution of higher education  
6 from a State or tribal law enforcement agency shall  
7 not be administered to individuals.

8 (d) PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH.—

9 (1) STUDENT PARTICIPATION.—Notwith-  
10 standing any provision of the Controlled Substances  
11 Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Safe and Drug-Free  
12 Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. 7101 et  
13 seq.), or any other Federal law, a covered student or  
14 covered researcher shall not be ineligible or lose any  
15 Federal student aid or other Federal funding be-  
16 cause of participation in covered research, conducted  
17 by an institution of higher education in a controlled  
18 setting, involving marijuana.

19 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
20 Notwithstanding any provision of the Controlled  
21 Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Safe  
22 and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20  
23 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), or any other Federal law, an  
24 institution of higher education shall not be ineligible

1 or lose any Federal funds as a result of any sponsor-  
2 ship of research involving marijuana.

3 (3) IMPACT ON IMMIGRATION STATUS.—The  
4 immigration status of a covered student or covered  
5 researcher who participates in covered research, con-  
6 ducted by an institution of higher education in a  
7 controlled setting, involving marijuana shall not be  
8 impacted by such participation.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) CONTROLLED SETTING.—The term “con-  
11 trolled setting” means a setting for which the re-  
12 search being conducted was approved by the institu-  
13 tion of higher education’s internal authority for re-  
14 viewing research.

15 (2) COVERED STUDENT.—The term “covered  
16 student” means an individual enrolled part-time or  
17 full-time at an institution of higher education for  
18 undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate study.

19 (3) COVERED RESEARCH.—The term “covered  
20 research” includes the administration of any re-  
21 search involving marijuana, but does not include a  
22 covered student consuming marijuana in any man-  
23 ner.

24 (4) COVERED RESEARCHER.—The term “cov-  
25 ered researcher” means an individual employed by a

1 institution of higher education to conduct or assist  
2 research approved by the institution of higher edu-  
3 cation’s internal authority for reviewing research.

4 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
5 shall have the meaning given such term in section  
6 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
7 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

8 (6) STATE OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT MARI-  
9 JUANA REGULATORY BODY.—The term “State or  
10 tribal government marijuana regulatory body”  
11 means the entity approved by State or tribal law  
12 with overseeing marijuana licensing in such State or  
13 Indian tribe.

14 (7) STATE OR TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
15 AGENCY.—The term “State or tribal law enforce-  
16 ment agency” means an entity authorized by State  
17 or tribal law to enforce the laws within their juris-  
18 diction.

19 **SEC. 3. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION LICENSE**  
20 **PROCESS TO STUDY MARIJUANA.**

21 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
22 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Drug Enforce-  
23 ment Administration shall establish an Office of Univer-  
24 sity Relations to—

1           (1) provide technical assistance to a researcher  
2           or institution of higher education seeking to register  
3           for the manufacture, distribution, or dispensation of  
4           a controlled substance under part C of title II of the  
5           Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 821 et seq.);  
6           and

7           (2) develop any technology necessary to provide  
8           the opportunity for a researcher or institution of  
9           higher education to amend an application prior to  
10          submission.

11 **SEC. 4. INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER-**  
12 **SHIP.**

13          (a) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER-  
14 SHIP.—

15           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
16           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-  
17           rector of the National Institutes of Health shall es-  
18           tablish working group to produce recommendations  
19           on how to simplify and streamline the registration  
20           process for studying marijuana at institutions of  
21           higher education.

22           (2) PARTICIPANTS.—The working group estab-  
23           lished in paragraph (1) shall include:

24                   (A) 2 appointees from the National Insti-  
25                   tutes of Health.

1 (B) 2 appointees from the Food and Drug  
2 Administration.

3 (C) 2 appointees from the Drug Enforce-  
4 ment Administration.

5 (D) 2 appointees from two different insti-  
6 tution of higher education, appointed by the in-  
7 dividuals under subparagraphs (A), (B), and  
8 (C)) based on their prior study of marijuana.

9 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than one  
10 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
11 working group established under paragraph (1) shall  
12 submit a report to the Committee on Education and  
13 the Workforce, Committee on Energy and Com-  
14 merce, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
15 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the  
17 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate includ-  
18 ing—

19 (A) a summary of the status of marijuana  
20 research at institutions of higher education in  
21 the United States; and

22 (B) a list of recommendations to improve  
23 the academic study of marijuana.



1 **SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITIES TO STUDY**  
2 **MARIJUANA.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the  
5 National Institutes of Health shall establish a program (in  
6 this section referred to as the “Program”) within the Na-  
7 tional Institute of Drug Abuse to study marijuana for po-  
8 tential medical benefits.

9 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-  
10 gram, the Director may award a grant on a competitive  
11 basis in accordance with this section.

12 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Director may  
13 award a grant under the Program to an institution of  
14 higher education determined by the Director to have the  
15 authority and capability to carry out a project described  
16 in subsection (d).

17 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Grant funds awarded  
18 under the Program may only be used to study marijuana  
19 for medical or public health purposes.

20 (e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under  
21 the Program, an eligible recipient shall submit to the Di-  
22 rector an application in such form, at such time, and con-  
23 taining such information as the Director determines to be  
24 appropriate.

25 (f) PRIORITY.—In making a grant under the Pro-  
26 gram, the Director shall give priority to an institution of

1 higher education in a State or tribal land where use of  
2 marijuana for recreational or medical use is legal, account-  
3 ing for geographic diversity and whether the institution  
4 of higher education is a minority institution.

5 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out  
7 this section, \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2023  
8 to 2027.

9 **SEC. 6. GRANT PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITIES TO STUDY**  
10 **MARIJUANA FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSES.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
13 Agriculture shall establish a program (in this section re-  
14 ferred to as the “Program”) to study marijuana for agri-  
15 culture purposes, including conservation and growth tech-  
16 niques, impacts on other crops, and the impact of different  
17 strains of marijuana on other crops.

18 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-  
19 gram, the Secretary may award a grant on a competitive  
20 basis in accordance with this section.

21 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may  
22 award a grant under the Program to an institution of  
23 higher education determined by the Secretary to have the  
24 authority and capability to carry out a project described  
25 in subsection (d).

1 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Grant funds awarded  
2 under the Program may only be used to study marijuana  
3 for agriculture purposes.

4 (e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under  
5 the Program, an eligible recipient shall submit to the Sec-  
6 retary an application in such form, at such time, and con-  
7 taining such information as the Secretary determines to  
8 be appropriate.

9 (f) PRIORITY.—In making a grant under the Pro-  
10 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to an institution  
11 of higher education in a State or tribal land where use  
12 of marijuana for recreational or medical use is legal, ac-  
13 counting for geographic diversity and whether the institu-  
14 tion of higher education is a minority institution.

15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
16 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
17 out this section, \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years  
18 2023 to 2027.

19 **SEC. 7. ARTICLE 28 OF SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC**  
20 **DRUGS.**

21 Article 28 of the Single Convention on Narcotic  
22 Drugs shall not be construed to prohibit, or impose addi-  
23 tional restrictions upon, research involving marijuana, or  
24 the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of marijuana,  
25 that is conducted in accordance with the Controlled Sub-

1 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), this Act, and the  
2 amendments made by this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
6 term “institution of higher education” shall have the  
7 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-  
8 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

9 (2) MINORITY INSTITUTION.—The term “mi-  
10 nority institution” shall have the meaning given such  
11 term in section 365 of the Higher Education act of  
12 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k).

13 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any  
14 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
15 and any territory of the United States.