

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7234

To increase research, the synthesis of research findings, and the production of scientific information on chemicals, and to expedite the listing of information in the Integrated Risk Information System maintained by the Office of Research and Development of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To increase research, the synthesis of research findings, and the production of scientific information on chemicals, and to expedite the listing of information in the Integrated Risk Information System maintained by the Office of Research and Development of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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 “Integrated Risk Infor-  
5        mation System Authorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Environmental Protection Agency's Of-  
4 fice of Research and Development met a pressing  
5 national need when it created the Integrated Risk  
6 Information System in 1985 to disseminate scientific  
7 information on the toxicity of chemicals.

8 (2) The Integrated Risk Information System  
9 (IRIS) is the Nation's premier database for sci-  
10 entific information on the toxicity of chemicals.

11 (3) Researchers, government officials, public  
12 health experts, and members of the public all rely on  
13 IRIS for information about health risks associated  
14 with exposure to chemicals with some 9 million in-  
15 quires of the database each year.

16 (4) IRIS provides important scientific informa-  
17 tion that supports the development of risk assess-  
18 ments of chemicals.

19 (5) An estimated 700 new chemicals enter the  
20 marketplace in the United States each year, pre-  
21 senting a constant challenge to keep the IRIS data-  
22 base up-to-date.

23 (6) The Environmental Protection Agency Of-  
24 fice of Research and Development's efforts to enter  
25 new scientific information about the toxicity of  
26 chemicals into the IRIS database has ground to a

1 halt in recent years due to an overly burdensome re-  
2 view process.

3 (7) The burdensome new review process has  
4 slowed new entries to the IRIS database to an aver-  
5 age of just 2 per year.

6 (8) The Nation needs more, and more timely,  
7 scientific assessments of chemicals to guide further  
8 research and to inform decisions.

9 (9) The development and review of chemical as-  
10 sements for inclusion in the IRIS database must  
11 be a science-based process managed by the Environ-  
12 mental Protection Agency's Office of Research and  
13 Development, and this Office must move more expe-  
14 ditiously to produce assessments without inter-  
15 ference by other Federal offices.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

17 In this Act, the term "Assistant Administrator"  
18 means the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Re-  
19 search and Development of the Environmental Protection  
20 Agency.

21 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT.**

22 (a) DATABASE.—The Assistant Administrator shall  
23 maintain a publicly accessible database of scientific infor-  
24 mation on the toxicity of chemicals, including—

25 (1) hazard identification;

- 1           (2) dose response assessments;
- 2           (3) reference doses; and
- 3           (4) any other information that would facilitate
- 4           the development of risk assessments.

5           (b) FINAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Assistant Adminis-

6           trator shall publish final assessments for at least 15 new

7           chemicals per year and shall publish at least 5 updates

8           to existing assessments per year.

9           (c) NOMINATIONS FOR TOXICITY ASSESSMENTS.—

10          The Assistant Administrator shall solicit nominations for

11          chemical assessments from Environmental Protection

12          Agency program offices, other Federal agencies, State,

13          local, and tribal governments, and the public.

14          (d) LIST.—The Assistant Administrator shall issue

15          a list of chemicals proposed for assessment 2 years prior

16          to the initiation of a chemical's assessment. A chemical

17          assessment shall be completed and made available on the

18          database maintained under subsection (a) within 4 years

19          after its appearance on a list under this subsection. Such

20          list shall not be subject to review or approval by any other

21          Federal agency or official.

22          **SEC. 5. ASSESSMENT REVIEW.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator shall

24          determine the information to be used to assess a chemical

25          and shall establish a process for reviewing a chemical as-

1 assessment prior to its inclusion on the database maintained  
2 under section 4(a). The process shall include the following:

3 (1) Opportunity for public comment by the  
4 stakeholder community, including other Federal  
5 agencies that will use the database.

6 (2) Opportunity for internal deliberation and  
7 review in cooperation with other Federal agencies  
8 with statutory responsibilities over public health or  
9 whose primary mission is to conduct or support re-  
10 search in the areas of public health or environmental  
11 protection.

12 (3) Peer review of the chemical assessment by  
13 independent scientists prior to its publication in the  
14 database.

15 (b) EXCLUSIONS.—In establishing the process in sub-  
16 section (a), the Assistant Administrator shall ensure  
17 that—

18 (1) Federal agencies with a real or perceived  
19 conflict of interest shall not participate in the devel-  
20 opment or internal review of chemical assessments;  
21 and

22 (2) the Assistant Administrator shall develop  
23 and review chemical assessments without review by  
24 the President and shall publish final assessments

1 without prior review by the President or any other  
2 Federal agency or official.

3 **SEC. 6. INAPPLICABILITY OF BULLETINS.**

4 The preparation and review of chemical assessments  
5 shall not be subject to the provisions of Bulletin No. 07–  
6 02, Final Bulletin for Agency Good Guidance Practices  
7 and the Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Re-  
8 view of the Office of Management and Budget.

9 **SEC. 7. BACKLOG OF CHEMICAL ASSESSMENTS.**

10 For chemical assessments that have been in develop-  
11 ment for IRIS entries prior to the date of enactment of  
12 this Act, the Assistant Administrator shall finalize and  
13 publish those entries within 6 months after the date of  
14 enactment of this Act.

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