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[H.R. 1156, International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, May 19, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 1156](#), the *International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015, as amended*, under a suspension of the rules. H.R. 1156 was introduced on February 27, 2015, by Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which ordered the bill reported by voice vote on March 4, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1156 directs the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council, to establish a working group to facilitate international research and technology activities, primarily those to aid U.S. domestic science and technology and to support U.S. foreign policy goals. The bill requires officials from the OSTP and Department of State to co-chair the committee. Additionally, the bill requires the Director to report the working group's findings to Congress.

BACKGROUND

Many Federal agencies work with international partners on science and technology research and development projects. According to the bill sponsor, greater coordination across these agencies is needed to identify opportunities for additional beneficial collaboration, which will in turn ensure funding for these agencies is used efficiently.¹

H.R. 1156 is similar to H.R. 5029, which passed the House on July 14, 2014 by a vote of [346 to 41](#). The Senate did not act on the House-passed bill in the 113th Congress.

¹ <http://www.lipinski.house.gov/press-releases/rep-lipinskis-bill-improving-international-collaboration-on-science-and-technology-research-passes-house/>

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) implementing H.R. 1156, as introduced, would cost about \$3 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. However, the bill was amended and now directs OSTP to establish or designate a “working group” instead of a “body” - which was in the original bill text - comprised of OSTP and Department of State officials, and states that it be co-chaired by “officials” instead of “senior-level” officials. CBO has not scored the bill, as amended, but the new language is similar to the language in [H.R. 1119](#), which creates a working group comprised of OSTP and OMB officials, for which CBO estimated there would be no significant cost.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [John Huston](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-5539.