

Federal Biotechnology Workforce Assessment Act

Overview

The **Federal Biotechnology Workforce Assessment Act** would direct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to coordinate with the heads of each appropriate federal agency or department to define the biotechnology workforce and complete assessments of current and future biotechnology workforce needs.

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that U.S. government employees must maintain sufficient, up-to-date understanding of biotechnology and related scientific disciplines in order to drive national biotechnology priorities and strengthen U.S. leadership.

The U.S. government currently lacks a clear understanding of training gaps for federal personnel working on biotechnology, hampering its ability to equip and empower federal employees to action biotechnology policy.

As new technologies and concepts emerge in biotechnology all the time, and biotechnology is increasingly converging with other emerging technologies such as AI and quantum, the U.S. government must identify biotechnology training gaps across the interagency to inform federal workforce development programs and strengthen U.S. competitiveness.

House bill number pending

Sponsor:
Rep. Ro Khanna
(D-CA-17)

Original Co-Sponsor:
Rep. Rich McCormick
(R-GA-7)

Available for Senate introduction

Congress established the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) to assess biotechnology's national security impact and recommend strategies to ensure American leadership.

Read the NSCEB's April 2025 report at <https://www.biotech.senate.gov/final-report>

Legislative Details

01 Assessment Requirements

- Quantify current biotechnology positions and positions that will be needed in the next five and ten years to advance federal biotechnology efforts;
- Describe current and needed biotechnology positions, including the qualifications required for each position, such as education, training, and security clearances;
- Assess whether current classifications used to track the federal workforce adequately account for the range of personnel comprising the biotechnology workforce;
- Identify challenges to developing the biotechnology workforce and proposed solutions to these challenges;
- Assess whether current federal employees might be re-assigned or detailed to meet biotechnology workforce needs and whether additional training may be required; and
- Identify mechanisms for federal agencies or departments to utilize outside expertise on an as-needed basis, as well as to engage in public-private talent exchanges.

02 Report on Assessment

OPM would submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the assessment no later than 180 days after enactment.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov

