

A BILL

To establish an Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Office for Navigating New and Emerging Critical Topics Act of 2026” or the “Tech CONNECT Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the legislative branch of the Government an office known as the “Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor”.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR AND DEPUTY CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Office shall be headed by the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for a renewable term of 5 years, without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office, from among 6 individuals, 3 of whom are officers or employees of the Congressional Research Service and 3 of whom are officers or employees of the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics Office of the Government Accountability Office, recommended for such appointment by the—

(A) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(2) REMOVAL.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may be removed by—

(A) a resolution of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or

(B) a concurrent resolution of the Congress.

(3) DEPUTY CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor shall appoint a Deputy Congressional Science and Technology Advisor, who shall act as Congressional Science and Technology Advisor in the absence or incapacity of, or a vacancy in the office of, the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor.

(B) AFFILIATION.—

(i) If the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor was appointed from the Congressional Research Service, then the Deputy Congressional Science and Technology Advisor shall be appointed from among the personnel of the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics Office of the Government Accountability Office.

(ii) If the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor was appointed from the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics Office of the Government Accountability Office, then the Deputy Congressional Science and Technology Advisor shall be appointed from among the personnel of the Congressional Research Service.

(4) INITIAL APPOINTMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ENACTMENT.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore shall carry out paragraph (2) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

(5) COMPENSATION.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor and the Deputy Congressional Science and Technology Advisor shall receive compensation at an annual rate consistent with level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.—The science and technology experts who shall constitute the personnel of the Office shall carry out the following under the supervision of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor:

(1) On the request of a congressional committee or Member of Congress, provide education or an assessment with respect to a matter in science or technology.

(2) Provide briefings, on a monthly basis, available to Members of Congress and congressional employees with contributions from leaders in technology industries.

(3) On the request of a congressional committee, assist the congressional committee with respect to the recruitment and appointment of advisors in emerging technologies as employees of the congressional committee.

(4) Maintain a database of congressional fellows in science and technology, available opportunities for congressional fellowships in science and technology, and candidates for such fellowships and other opportunities requiring competence in areas of science and technology, in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—

(1) OTHER CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may accept and

use such services and information offered to the Office by the Comptroller General, the Librarian of Congress, and the Congressional Budget Office, and the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may offer and provide such services and information of the Office to the Comptroller General, the Librarian of Congress, and the Congressional Budget Office.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an Executive agency may offer, and the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may accept, such services and information, including in the form of detailees, provided to the Office as determined appropriate by the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor for carrying out this section.

(B) REQUESTS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR.—On the request of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor, the head of an Executive agency shall disclose to the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor such information requested by the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor, unless the disclosure is prohibited by law.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

(2) NONPARTISAN SERVICE.—The appointment of the personnel of the Office shall be without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties and responsibilities assigned by the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor.

(3) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES.—Except with respect to the compensation of the Congressional Science and

Technology Advisor and the Deputy Congressional Science and Technology Advisor, the employees of the Office shall be treated as employees of the House of Representatives.

(4) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may procure temporary and intermittent services of experts and consultants as are necessary to the extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the rate specified at the time of such service for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) NONCOMPENSATED PERSONNEL.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may accept and utilize the services of voluntary and noncompensated personnel and reimburse such personnel for expenses in accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) DETAILEES TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—On the request of a congressional committee, the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may detail such personnel of the Office to the congressional committee if the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor determines that the detailing would assist the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor in carrying out the functions of the Office.

(7) REGULATIONS.—The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may prescribe such regulations as the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor considers necessary to govern the manner in which the functions of the Office shall be carried out.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—The term “congressional committee” means—

(A) a committee in the House of Representatives;

(B) a committee in the Senate; and

(C) a joint committee of the Congress.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEE.—The term “congressional employee” has the meaning given such term in section 2107 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given such term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, other than the Government Accountability Office.

(4) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Member of Congress” means a Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor established under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER.—Section 312(f)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (2 U.S.C. 2062(f)(2)), is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” after “the Office of Technology Assessment,”.

(b) TITLE 5 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) Section 5531 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” after “the Office of Technology Assessment,”.

(2) Section 7905(a)(3) of such title is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” before “and the Office of Technology Assessment”.

(3) Section 8402(c) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

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“(10) The Congressional Science and Technology Advisor may exclude from the operation of this chapter an employee under the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor whose employment is temporary or intermittent.”.

(4) Section 13101(11) of such title is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (J); and

(C) by inserting the following:.

“(I) the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor; and”.

(c) TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) Section 202 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” after “the Office of Technology Assessment,”.

(2) Section 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” after “the Office of Technology Assessment,”.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.—Section 215(e)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)) is amended by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” after “the Office of Technology Assessment,”.

(e) AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.—Section 510 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12209) is amended—

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(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “the Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor,” before “and the Library of Congress”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) DEFINITION OF INSTRUMENTALITIES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘instrumentality of the Congress’ includes the following:

“(A) The Government Accountability Office.

“(B) The Government Publishing Office.

“(C) The Library of Congress.

“(D) The Office of the Congressional Science and Technology Advisor.”.