

International Biotechnology Security and Innovation Enhancement Act

Overview

The **International Biotechnology Security and Innovation Enhancement Act** would expand the scope of the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) fund to include biotechnology and dedicate \$300 million over 5 years for biotechnology diplomacy. This would facilitate the State Department's (DOS) coordination with relevant federal departments and agencies to maximize the impact of biotechnology diplomacy for international policy, research and development (R&D), and secure supply chains.

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that advancing biotechnology is an international endeavor—one that requires the United States to identify and maximize complementary capabilities, expertise, and resources with its allies and partners.

By pooling capabilities, the United States and its allies and partners can develop mutually beneficial solutions to challenges—from advancing national defense and strengthening supply chains to ensuring food security and creating life changing and lifesaving medications. However, the DOS currently lacks sufficient resources and dedicated funding mechanisms to pursue these objectives at scale. Without additional capacity, the United States risks falling short in leveraging allied capabilities to advance biotechnology security and innovation.

Congress established the DOS's ITSI Fund in 2022 to strengthen telecommunications networks and semiconductor supply chain security. The fund deploys resources to high-value multilateral cooperation opportunities, including to overcome regulatory and workforce barriers in these sectors. To drive more effective, high-value biotechnology cooperation across shared capabilities, expertise, and resources, Congress should expand the scope of the ITSI fund to encompass a wider range of technologies and set aside dedicated funds for biotechnology.

Available for House introduction

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 Purpose

Funding for biotechnology with the ITSI Fund promotes international biotechnology security and innovation. This includes supporting the development and adoption of biotechnologies, strengthening relevant supply chains, advancing R&D, and encouraging the responsible global use of emerging biotechnologies. Expansion also enables support for related international partnerships, capacity-building programs, and global cooperation to address biotechnology-related challenges.

02 Transfer and Use of Funds

The Secretary of State may transfer funds to specific U.S. entities, including the DOS, the Export-Import Bank, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. These funds must be used in accordance with the purposes and legal conditions of the recipient accounts.

03 Interagency Coordination

To maximize the impact of the ITSI fund, the Secretary of State must ensure that the use of these funds complements existing efforts and addresses critical gaps that other agencies are unable to fund.

04 Reporting Requirements

The Secretary of State must submit an annual report to Congress detailing how the funds are used, including descriptions of the supported programs, projects, and partnerships.

05 Funding and Oversight

This legislation authorizes annual appropriations of \$60 million per year over a five year period, with each year's funding available for use over a five-year period. Up to \$3 million annually may be used for administration and oversight, including \$300,000 per year dedicated to the DOS's Office of Inspector General for monitoring expenditures.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov

