First Look: Accelerating Biomedical Research Act (HR 5455, 115th Congress)

Allows for budget increases for the National Institutes of Health in excess of established spending limits in the event that Congress appropriates such excess funds to that agency.

Updated last April 25, 2018
for the 04/10/2018 version of HR 5455.

WHAT IT DOES

HR 5455, the Accelerating Biomedical Research Act, allows for enacted budget increases to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to go into place even if such increases would exceed the government's self-imposed spending limits. More specifically, during fiscal years 2019 through 2021, if Congress appropriates more than $3.7084 billion specifically to the NIH, any excess appropriations above that base amount would trigger a matching increase in the federal budget so that the NIH could receive exactly the amount of excess funds appropriated to them. Maximum possible budget increases beyond the base amount range from $5 billion in fiscal year 2019 to $8.4 billion in fiscal year 2021. Such budget increases, however, are contingent upon Congress successfully appropriating the excess money to the NIH in the first place.

STATUS

HR 5455 was introduced in the House on April 10, 2018, and referred to the Committee on the Budget on the same date.

POLICY HISTORY

The Accelerating Biomedical Research Act was first introduced in the 113th Congress (HR 5580 / S 2658); neither version of the bill was enacted nor considered by committee. The Act was again introduced in the 114th Congress (HR 531 / S 318), and likewise neither bill was enacted or considered by committee. For all these prior versions, the bills were textually identical to the version in the 115th Congress, with the exception of varying maximum budget increases per year.

SPONSORS

Sponsor: Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT-3)

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