

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1280

To require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Testing, Rapid Anal-
5 ysis, and Narcotic Quality Research Act of 2023” or the
6 “TRANQ Research Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. XYLAZINE DETECTION AND ANALYSIS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
5 and Technology.

6 (2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Fed-
7 eral laboratory” has the meaning given such term in
8 section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
9 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

10 (3) INSTITUTE.—The term “Institute” means
11 the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

12 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
13 term “institution of higher education” has the
14 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
15 er Education Act of 1965 (19 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
17 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
18 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
20 501(a) of such code.

21 (6) XYLAZINE.—The term “xylazine” means
22 the nonopioid tranquilizer methyl benzene compound
23 frequently used in veterinary medicine as an emetic
24 and sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant
25 properties.

26 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

1 (1) support intramural basic measurement
2 science and research of the Institute to advance—

3 (A) analytical methods to identify, under-
4 stand, differentiate, and categorize illicit drugs
5 containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or
6 other emerging substances of concern;

7 (B) measurement technologies to shorten
8 analysis timelines and enhance narcotic and
9 opioid detection and analysis capabilities in il-
10 licit drugs;

11 (C) new data tools, techniques, and proc-
12 esses to identify and publicly disclose relevant
13 information concerning illicit drugs containing
14 xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other
15 emerging substances of concern; and

16 (D) all other areas determined by the Di-
17 rector to be critical to the development and de-
18 ployment of technologies to measure and ana-
19 lyze the presence of xylazine, novel synthetic
20 opioids, and other emerging substances of con-
21 cern in illicit drugs;

22 (2) support activities to inform and expand the
23 development of near-real time spectrometry capabili-
24 ties regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and
25 other emerging compounds in illicit drugs;

1 (3) convene the private sector, institutions of
2 higher education, nonprofit organizations, Federal
3 laboratories, and other Federal agencies engaged in
4 the analysis of illicit drugs to develop coordinated
5 strategies and voluntary best practices for the safe
6 handling, transport, and analysis of illicit drugs con-
7 taining xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other
8 emerging substances of concern;

9 (4) establish or expand collaborative partner-
10 ships or consortia with other government agencies
11 engaged in counternarcotic research and develop-
12 ment, institutions of higher education, Federal lab-
13 oratories, and the private sector to enhance narcotic
14 and opioid detection and analysis capabilities regard-
15 ing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other
16 emerging substances of concern in illicit drugs; and

17 (5) provide opportunities for graduate and post-
18 graduate research on the detection and identification
19 of xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other emerg-
20 ing substances of concern in illicit drugs.

21 (c) CONTROLS.—In carrying out activities under this
22 section, the Director shall ensure proper security controls
23 are implemented to protect sensitive information, as ap-
24 propriate.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit
3 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
4 tation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space,
5 and Technology of the House of Representatives a report
6 on the implementation of this section. Such report may
7 include recommendations for legislative action to improve
8 the ability of the Director to carry out this section.

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