

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2927

To amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2021

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, 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 “National Civilian Med-
5 als Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE AWARD.**

7 The Act entitled “An Act to establish a National
8 Medal of Science to provide recognition for individuals who

1 make outstanding contributions in the physical, biological,
 2 mathematical, engineering, behavioral, and social
 3 sciences.”, approved August 25, 1959 (42 U.S.C. 1881),
 4 is amended—

5 (1) in the title, by striking “engineering, behav-
 6 ioral, and social” and inserting “and engineering
 7 sciences”; and

8 (2) by amending section 2 to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 2. AWARD OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE.**

10 “(a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall
 11 award the National Medal of Science to an individual or
 12 a group who in the judgment of the President is deserving
 13 of special recognition by reason of outstanding contribu-
 14 tions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathe-
 15 matical, or engineering sciences on the basis of—

16 “(1) information and evidence the President de-
 17 termines appropriate; and

18 “(2) recommendations received from—

19 “(A) the President’s Committee on the Na-
 20 tional Medal of Science (or a successor of such
 21 committee);

22 “(B) the Director of the National Science
 23 Foundation;

24 “(C) the President of the National Acad-
 25 emy of Sciences;

1 “(D) the Director of the Office of Science
2 and Technology Policy; and

3 “(E) the Director of the National Insti-
4 tutes of Health.

5 “(b) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,
6 the President shall award at least 1 medal, and the Presi-
7 dent may not award more than 5 medals in any calendar
8 year.

9 “(c) CITIZENSHIP.—

10 “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-
11 dividual may be awarded the medal only if at the
12 time the award is made such individual—

13 “(A) is a citizen or other national of the
14 United States; or

15 “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the
16 United States for permanent residency who—

17 “(i) has filed an application or peti-
18 tion for naturalization in the manner pre-
19 scribed by section 334 of the Immigration
20 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

21 “(ii) is eligible for naturalization.

22 “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may
23 be awarded the medal only if such group is orga-
24 nized or incorporated in the United States.

25 “(d) CEREMONIES.—

1 “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation
 2 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by
 3 the President, during the month of April of each cal-
 4 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President
 5 may determine proper.

6 “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-
 7 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-
 8 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the
 9 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under
 10 paragraph (1).

11 “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

12 “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-
 13 dent may not award the National Medal of Science
 14 posthumously.

15 “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-
 16 dent may not award the National Medal of Science
 17 to—

18 “(A) the Vice President, the head of an
 19 Executive department, or a Member of Con-
 20 gress; or

21 “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or
 22 daughter-in-law of an individual described in
 23 subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-
 24 ble common law.”.

1 **SEC. 3. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS AWARD.**

2 Section 13 of the National Foundation on the Arts
3 and the Humanities Act Amendments of 1983 (20 U.S.C.
4 955b) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
6 (b)” and inserting “this section”;

7 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
8 lows:

9 “(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall
10 award the National Medal of Arts, on the basis of rec-
11 ommendations from the National Council on the Arts, to
12 an individual or a group who in the judgment of the Presi-
13 dent is deserving of special recognition by reason of out-
14 standing contributions to the excellence, growth, support,
15 and availability of the arts in the United States.”;

16 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
17 section (g); and

18 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,
21 the President shall award at least 1 National Medal of
22 Arts, and the President may not award more than 5 of
23 such medals in any calendar year.

24 “(d) CITIZENSHIP.—

25 “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-
26 dividual may be awarded the National Medal of Arts

1 only if at the time the award is made such indi-
2 vidual—

3 “(A) is a citizen or other national of the
4 United States; or

5 “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the
6 United States for permanent residency who—

7 “(i) has filed an application or peti-
8 tion for naturalization in the manner pre-
9 scribed by section 334 of the Immigration
10 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

11 “(ii) is eligible to become a citizen of
12 the United States.

13 “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may
14 be awarded the National Medal of Arts only if such
15 group is organized or incorporated in the United
16 States.

17 “(e) CEREMONIES.—

18 “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation
19 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by
20 the President, during the month of October of each
21 calendar year, with such ceremonies as the President
22 may determine proper.

23 “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-
24 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-
25 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the

1 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under
2 paragraph (1).

3 “(f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

4 “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-
5 dent may not award the National Medal of Arts
6 posthumously.

7 “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-
8 dent may not award the National Medal of Arts to—

9 “(A) the Vice President, the head of an
10 Executive department, or a Member of Con-
11 gress; or

12 “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or
13 daughter-in-law of an individual described in
14 subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-
15 ble common law.”.

16 **SEC. 4. THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**
17 **MEDAL.**

18 Section 16 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
19 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711) is amended—

20 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall
23 award the National Technology and Innovation Medal to
24 an individual or a group who in the judgment of the Presi-
25 dent is deserving of special recognition by reason of out-

1 standing contributions to the promotion of technology or
 2 technological manpower for the improvement of the eco-
 3 nomic, environmental, or social well-being of the United
 4 States on the basis of—

5 “(1) information and evidence the President de-
 6 termines appropriate; and

7 “(2) recommendations from—

8 “(A) the National Medal of Technology
 9 and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Com-
 10 mittee (or a successor of such committee);

11 “(B) the Director of the United States
 12 Patent and Trademark Office;

13 “(C) the Director of the Office of Science
 14 and Technology Policy;

15 “(D) the Director of the National Institute
 16 of Standards and Technology; and

17 “(E) the Director of the National Science
 18 Foundation.”;

19 (2) by striking subsection (c); and

20 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,
 23 the President shall award at least 1 National Technology
 24 and Innovation Medal, and the President may not award
 25 more than 5 of such medals in any calendar year.

1 “(d) CITIZENSHIP.—

2 “(1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An in-
3 dividual may be awarded the National Technology
4 and Innovation Medal only if at the time the award
5 is made such individual—

6 “(A) is a citizen or other national of the
7 United States; or

8 “(B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the
9 United States for permanent residency who—

10 “(i) has filed an application or peti-
11 tion for naturalization in the manner pre-
12 scribed by section 334 of the Immigration
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

14 “(ii) is eligible to become a citizen of
15 the United States.

16 “(2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may
17 be awarded the National Technology and Innovation
18 Medal only if such group is organized or incor-
19 porated in the United States.

20 “(e) CEREMONIES.—

21 “(1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation
22 of the award under subsection (a) shall be made by
23 the President, during the month of April of each cal-
24 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President
25 may determine proper.

1 “(2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-
 2 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-
 3 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the
 4 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under
 5 paragraph (1).

6 “(f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

7 “(1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The Presi-
 8 dent may not award the National Technology and
 9 Innovation Medal posthumously.

10 “(2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-
 11 dent may not award the National Technology and
 12 Innovation Medal to—

13 “(A) the Vice President, the head of an
 14 Executive department, or a Member of Con-
 15 gress; or

16 “(B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or
 17 daughter-in-law of an individual described in
 18 subparagraph (A), as determined under applica-
 19 ble common law.”.

20 **SEC. 5. THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Na-
 22 tional Humanities Medal, which shall be a medal of such
 23 design as is determined appropriate by the President.

24 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall award
 25 the National Humanities Medal, on the basis of rec-

1 ommendations from the National Council on the Human-
2 ities, to an individual or a group who in the judgment of
3 the President is deserving of special recognition by reason
4 of outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth,
5 support, and availability of the humanities in the United
6 States.

7 (c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,
8 the President shall award at least 1 National Humanities
9 Medal, and the President may not award more than 5 of
10 such medals in any calendar year.

11 (d) CITIZENSHIP.—

12 (1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An indi-
13 vidual may be awarded the National Humanities
14 Medal only if at the time the award is made such
15 individual—

16 (A) is a citizen or other national of the
17 United States; or

18 (B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the
19 United States for permanent residency who—

20 (i) has filed an application or petition
21 for naturalization in the manner prescribed
22 by section 334 of the Immigration and Na-
23 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

24 (ii) is eligible to become a citizen of
25 the United States.

1 (2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may
2 be awarded the National Humanities Medal only if
3 such group is organized or incorporated in the
4 United States.

5 (e) CEREMONIES.—

6 (1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation of
7 the award under subsection (a) shall be made by the
8 President, during the month of October of each cal-
9 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President
10 may determine proper.

11 (2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-
12 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-
13 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the
14 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under
15 paragraph (1).

16 (f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The President
18 may not award the National Humanities Medal post-
19 humously.

20 (2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-
21 dent may not award the National Humanities Medal
22 to—

23 (A) the Vice President, the head of an Ex-
24 ecutive department, or a Member of Congress;
25 or

1 (B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or daugh-
2 ter-in-law of an individual described in subpara-
3 graph (A), as determined under applicable com-
4 mon law.

5 **SEC. 6. THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
6 **AWARD.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Na-
8 tional Medal of Social Sciences, which shall be a medal
9 of such design as is determined appropriate by the Presi-
10 dent.

11 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall award
12 the National Medal of Social Sciences to an individual or
13 a group who in the judgment of the President is deserving
14 of special recognition by reason of outstanding contribu-
15 tions to knowledge in the social sciences, on the basis of—

16 (1) information and evidence the President de-
17 termines appropriate; and

18 (2) recommendations from—

19 (A) the presidential committee established
20 to award the medal described in this section;

21 (B) the Director of the National Science
22 Foundation;

23 (C) the President of the National Academy
24 of Science; and

1 (D) the Director of the National Institutes
2 of Health.

3 (c) NUMBER; ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—Annually,
4 the President shall award at least 1 Medal of Social
5 Sciences, and the President may not award more than 5
6 of such medals in any calendar year.

7 (d) CITIZENSHIP.—

8 (1) CITIZENSHIP OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—An indi-
9 vidual may be awarded the National Medal of Social
10 Sciences only if at the time the award is made such
11 individual—

12 (A) is a citizen or other national of the
13 United States; or

14 (B) is an alien lawfully admitted to the
15 United States for permanent residency who—

16 (i) has filed an application or petition
17 for naturalization in the manner prescribed
18 by section 334 of the Immigration and Na-
19 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445); and

20 (ii) is eligible to become a citizen of
21 the United States.

22 (2) CITIZENSHIP OF A GROUP.—A group may
23 be awarded the National Medal of Social Sciences
24 only if such group is organized or incorporated in
25 the United States.

1 (e) CEREMONIES.—

2 (1) DATE REQUIREMENT.—The presentation of
3 the award under subsection (a) shall be made by the
4 President, during the month of April of each cal-
5 endar year, with such ceremonies as the President
6 may determine proper.

7 (2) INVITATION TO CONGRESS AND THE SU-
8 PREME COURT.—The President shall invite appro-
9 priate Members of Congress and all Justices of the
10 Supreme Court to attend the presentation under
11 paragraph (1).

12 (f) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) POSTHUMOUS LIMITATION.—The President
14 may not award the National Medal of Social
15 Sciences posthumously.

16 (2) CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS.—The Presi-
17 dent may not award the National Medal of Social
18 Sciences to—

19 (A) the Vice President, the head of an Ex-
20 ecutive department, or a Member of Congress;
21 or

22 (B) the spouse, child, son-in-law, or daugh-
23 ter-in-law of an individual described in subpara-
24 graph (A), as determined under applicable com-
25 mon law.

1 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 A medal described in this Act, or an amendment
3 made by this Act, shall be considered a “thing of value”
4 for purposes of any Federal law with respect to bribery
5 or corruption of a Government official.

6 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
8 on the later of 1 year after the date of enactment of this
9 Act or, after the date of enactment of this Act, on the
10 date that the President awards at least 1 of each of the
11 medals described in this Act and the amendments made
12 by this Act.

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