

SECTION I

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACT OF 1950¹

AN ACT

To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Science Foundation Act of 1950."

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (42 U.S.C. §1861)

SEC. 2. There is hereby established in the executive branch of the Government an independent agency to be known as the National Science Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the "Foundation"). The Foundation shall consist of a National Science Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and a Director.

FUNCTIONS OF THE FOUNDATION (42 U.S.C. §1862)

SEC. 3. (a) The Foundation is authorized and directed—

(1) to initiate and support basic scientific research and programs to strengthen scientific research potential and science education programs at all levels in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, engineering, social, and other sciences, by making contracts or other arrangements (including grants, loans, and other forms of assistance) to support such scientific and educational activities and to appraise the impact of research upon industrial development and upon the general welfare;

(2) to award, as provided in section 10, scholarships and graduate fellowships in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, engineering, social, and other sciences;

(3) to foster the interchange of scientific information among scientists in the United States and foreign countries;

(4) to foster and support the development and use of computer and other scientific methods and technologies, primarily for research and education in the sciences;

¹ Public Law 81-507 (64 Stat. 149), as amended by: Act of April 5, 1952 (P.L. 82-298: 66 Stat. 43), Act of Aug. 8, 1953 (P.L. 83-223: 67 Stat. 488), Act of July 11, 1958 (P.L. 85-510: 72 Stat. 353), Act of Sept. 8, 1959 (P.L. 86-232: 73 Stat. 467), Act of June 11, 1960 (P.L. 86-507: 74 Stat. 200), Act of June 29, 1960 (P.L. 86-550: 74 Stat. 256), Act of Oct. 16, 1962 (P.L. 87-835: 76 Stat. 1069), Act of July 18, 1968 (P.L. 90-407: 82 Stat. 360), Act of November 18, 1969 (P.L. 91-120: 83 Stat. 203), Act of August 10, 1972 (P.L. 92-372, 86 Stat. 526), Act of October 13, 1972 (P.L. 92-484: 86 Stat. 797), Act of April 21, 1976 (P.L. 94-273: 90 Stat. 375), Act of May 11, 1976 (P.L. 94-282: 90 Stat. 459), Act of October 11, 1976 (P.L. 94-471: 90 Stat. 2053), Act of August 15, 1977 (P.L. 95-99: 91 Stat. 831), Act of December 12, 1980 (P.L. 96-516: 94 Stat. 3007), and Act of December 21, 1982 (P.L. 97-375: 96 Stat. 1819).

(5) to evaluate the status and needs of the various sciences as evidenced by programs, projects, and studies undertaken by agencies of the Federal Government, by individuals, and by public and private research groups, employing by grant or contract such consulting services as it may deem necessary for the purpose of such evaluations; and to take into consideration the results of such evaluations in correlating the research and educational programs undertaken or supported by the Foundation with programs, projects, and studies undertaken by agencies of the Federal Government, by individuals, and by public and private research groups;

(6) to maintain a current register of scientific and technical personnel, and in other ways to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on the availability of, and the current and projected need for, scientific and technical resources in the United States, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government; and

(7) to initiate and maintain a program for the determination of the total amount of money for scientific research, including money allocated for the construction of the facilities wherein such research is conducted, received by each educational institution and appropriate nonprofit organization in the United States, by grant, contract, or other arrangement from agencies of the Federal Government, and to report annually thereon to the President and the Congress.

(b) The Foundation is authorized to initiate and support specific scientific activities in connection with matters relating to international cooperation, national security, and the effects of scientific applications upon society by making contracts or other arrangements (including grants, loans, and other forms of assistance) for the conduct of such activities. When initiated or supported pursuant to requests made by any other Federal department or agency, including the Office of Technology Assessment, such activities shall be financed whenever feasible from funds transferred to the Foundation by the requesting official as provided in section 14(g), and any such activities shall be unclassified and shall be identified by the Foundation as being undertaken at the request of the appropriate official.

(c) In addition to the authority contained in subsections (a) and (b), the Foundation is authorized to initiate and support scientific research, including applied research, at academic and other nonprofit institutions. When so directed by the President, the Foundation is further authorized to support, through other appropriate organizations, applied scientific research relevant to national problems involving the public interest. In exercising the authority contained in this subsection, the Foundation may employ by grant or contract such consulting services as it deems necessary, and shall coordinate and correlate its activities with respect to any such problem with other agencies of the Federal Government undertaking similar programs in that field.

(d) The Board and the Director shall recommend and encourage the pursuit of national policies for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences.

(e) In exercising the authority and discharging the functions referred to in the foregoing subsections, it shall be an objective of the Foundation to strengthen research and education in the sciences, including independent research by individuals, throughout