

S 854

Risky Research Review Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 5, 2025

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 164.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 164. (Sep 17, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/854>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]

Party: Republican • **State:** KY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 5, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 17, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 1864	Related bill	Mar 5, 2025: Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Risky Research Review Act

This bill establishes the Life Sciences Research Security Board to oversee the award of federal funding for high-risk life sciences research. *High-risk life sciences research* means the study of an organism, virus, or related product that could be misappropriated to pose a significant threat to the public or could enhance the transmissibility or virulence of certain high-risk pathogens (e.g., Ebola).

Specifically, the bill establishes the board as an independent agency that must review proposed high-risk life sciences research, determine whether a federal agency may award funding for the research, and determine minimum required controls for funded research. Entities that are seeking federal funding must attest to whether their research is high-risk life sciences research. Agencies must certify the validity of these attestations and submit proposed high-risk life sciences research to the board. Agencies must also notify the board of intended awards for other life sciences research for potential review.

In making its determinations, the board must consider specified factors, including whether the benefits of the research outweigh the risks. The bill prohibits agencies from awarding federal funding for high-risk life sciences research without approval of the board or for life sciences research currently under board review. The board may also review awards that were made before the bill's enactment.

Entities that fail to properly attest to the nature of their research may lose their eligibility for funding. Additionally, agency employees who fail to comply with the bill's requirements are subject to disciplinary action.

Actions Timeline

Sep 17, 2025: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Paul without amendment. Without written report.

Mar 5, 2025: Introduced in Senate

- **Mar 5, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
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