

# HB547 INTRODUCED



1 HB547

2 PS4SAER-1

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8 RFD: State Government

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SYNOPSIS:

This bill creates the Medical Research Supply Assurance and Trade Resilience Act to enhance health care and biotechnology sectors by safeguarding critical research and medical supply chains against global trade disruptions through strategic stockpiling, domestic incentives, and biomedical trade facilitation programs.

This bill will also create the Medical Research Supply Assurance and Trade Resilience Program Fund.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to global trade disruptions to medical or research materials; to establish the Essential Medical Supply Resilience Grant Program; to require the Alabama Department of Public Health to research trade risks; to establish a reserve of essential research and clinical supplies within the Alabama Department of Public Health; and to establish the Medical Supply Chain Vulnerability Advisory Board.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known as the Medical Research Supply Assurance and Trade Resilience Act.



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29 Section 2. As used in this act, unless otherwise  
30 specified or unless the context requires otherwise, the  
31 following terms will have the following meanings:

32 (1) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public  
33 Health.

34 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION. Any of the following  
35 institutions:

36 a. A hospital meeting the definition found in Section  
37 22-21-20(1), Code of Alabama 1975.

38 b. A research university operating within the state.

39 c. A biotechnology company operating within the state.

40 d. A health care facility meeting the definition found  
41 in Section 22-21-260(6), Code of Alabama 1975.

42 (3) TRADE DISRUPTION. Any period in which the average  
43 tariff on medical or research materials is over five percent.

44 Section 3. (a) The department shall establish the  
45 Essential Medical Supply Resilience Grant Program.

46 (b) The department may establish priorities,  
47 guidelines, standards, and processes by which grants may be  
48 awarded.

49 (c) Grants may be awarded to eligible institutions  
50 experiencing increased costs, delays, or shortages related to  
51 global trade instability.

52 (d) The department shall require interested eligible  
53 institutions to complete applications on forms issued by the  
54 department that will substantiate the eligible institution's  
55 need for the grant.

56 (e) Funds may be used for substitute sourcing,



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57 stockpiling, domestic supplier development, or related  
58 mitigation strategies.

59 Section 4. (a) The department shall support efforts to:

60 (1) Identify critical imported biomedical inputs  
61 subject to trade risks;

62 (2) Facilitate research into domestic or tariff-neutral  
63 substitutes; and

64 (3) Promote partnerships with in-state manufacturers to  
65 produce essential inputs.

66 (b) Grants under the Essential Medical Supply  
67 Resilience Grant Program and technical assistance to eligible  
68 institutions shall be prioritized for those institutions  
69 facing the highest exposure to trade disruptions.

70 Section 5. (a) The department shall create and maintain  
71 a strategic reserve of essential research and clinical  
72 supplies.

73 (b) The reserve shall include reagents, personal  
74 protective equipment, diagnostic kits, and lab consumables.

75 (c) Eligible institutions may request access to the  
76 reserve during periods of documented international trade  
77 disruption.

78 Section 6. (a) The department shall provide support to  
79 eligible institutions in:

80 (1) Navigating customs clearance and import licensing;

81 (2) Understanding international health material  
82 regulations; and

83 (3) Mitigating impacts of export controls or  
84 retaliatory tariffs on biomedical goods.



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85 (b) The department may collaborate with federal  
86 agencies to expedite resolution of customs or licensing  
87 barriers.

88 Section 7. (a) The Medical Supply Chain Vulnerability  
89 Advisory Board is established and shall:

90 (1) Assess the resilience of critical health care and  
91 research supply chains.

92 (2) Recommend policy actions to reduce reliance on  
93 vulnerable imports.

94 (3) Issue annual reports to the executive and  
95 legislative branches.

96 (b) The board shall consist of five members. There will  
97 be one member appointed by each of the following authorities:

98 (1) The Governor.

99 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

100 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

101 (4) The Senate Minority Leader.

102 (5) The House of Representatives Minority Leader.

103 (c) (1) The appointing authorities shall each appoint  
104 one initial member to the board for a term of two years.

105 (2) The appointing authorities should work to  
106 coordinate their appointments so that there is at least one  
107 member from the following groups:

108 a. Supply chain experts.

109 b. Medical professionals.

110 c. Academic researchers.

111 d. Agency representatives.

112 (3) Members subsequently appointed to the board shall



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113 each serve a term of four years.

114 (4) The members of the board shall serve without  
115 compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in  
116 attending meetings of the board pursuant to the policies of  
117 his or her respective appointing authority.

118 (5) The membership of the board shall be inclusive and  
119 reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and  
120 economic diversity of the state.

121 Section 8. (a) There is hereby created and there shall  
122 be a fund which shall be known as the Medical Research Supply  
123 Assurance and Trade Resilience Program Fund in the State  
124 Treasury for providing grants pursuant to this act.

125 (b) The fund shall consist of gifts, grants, federal  
126 funds, or legislative appropriations for purposes of  
127 administering the act and providing funding for grants,  
128 supplies, and strategic reserve facilities.

129 (c) Amounts in the fund shall be budgeted and allotted  
130 in accordance with Sections 41-4-80 through 41-4-69 and  
131 Sections 41-19-1 through 41-19-12, Code of Alabama 1975.

132 Section 9. The department shall adopt rules necessary  
133 to implement, administer, and facilitate this act.

134 Section 10. This act shall become effective on October  
135 1, 2026.