

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. VAN HOLLEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, 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 Fab Lab Net-  
5 work Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Scientific discoveries and technical innova-  
4 tions are critical to the economic and national secu-  
5 rity of the United States.

6 (2) Maintaining the leadership of the United  
7 States in science, technology, engineering, and math-  
8 ematics will require a diverse population with the  
9 skills, interest, and access to tools required to ad-  
10 vance these fields.

11 (3) Just as earlier digital revolutions in commu-  
12 nications and computation provided individuals with  
13 the internet and personal computers, a digital revo-  
14 lution in fabrication will allow anyone to make al-  
15 most anything, anywhere.

16 (4) These creations include elements of a typ-  
17 ical household basket of goods (furnishings, apparel,  
18 food production equipment, shelter, transportation,  
19 education and communication, recreation, and other  
20 goods and services), personal technology, means for  
21 personal expression, the production of digital fab-  
22 rication machinery, community design, and manufac-  
23 turing capability.

24 (5) The Center for Bits and Atoms of the Mas-  
25 sachusetts Institute of Technology (CBA) has con-  
26 tributed significantly to the advancement of these

1 goals through its work in creating and advancing  
2 digital fabrication facilities, or “fab labs” in the  
3 United States and abroad.

4 (6) Such digital fabrication facilities may in-  
5 clude MakerSpaces, Hackerspaces, and other cre-  
6 ative spaces that use digital fabrication as a plat-  
7 form for education, innovation, entrepreneurship,  
8 personal expression, public access, and social impact.

9 (7) Such digital fabrication facilities provide a  
10 model for a new kind of national laboratory that op-  
11 erates as a network, linking local facilities for ad-  
12 vanced manufacturing, providing universal access,  
13 cultivating new literacies, and empowering commu-  
14 nities.

15 (8) The nonprofit Fab Foundation was estab-  
16 lished to support the growth of the international net-  
17 work of digital fabrication facilities, to amplify the  
18 educational, entrepreneurial, and social impacts of  
19 digital fabrication facilities, and to support the de-  
20 velopment of regional capacity building organizations  
21 to broaden impact as well as address local, regional,  
22 and global challenges through the use of digital fab-  
23 rication technologies.

24 (9) A coordinated array of national public-pri-  
25 vate partnerships will be the most effective way to

1 accelerate the provision of universal access to this  
2 infrastructure for workforce development, science,  
3 technology, engineering, and mathematics education,  
4 developing inventions, creating businesses, producing  
5 personalized products, and mitigating risks.

6 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAB LAB NETWORK.**

7 (a) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “fab lab”  
8 means a facility that—

9 (1) contains the range of capabilities required  
10 to create form and function from digital designs, in-  
11 cluding—

12 (A) computer-controlled machines for addi-  
13 tive and subtractive fabrication processes;

14 (B) tools and components for manufac-  
15 turing and programming electronic circuits;

16 (C) materials and methods for short-run  
17 production; and

18 (D) workflows for three-dimensional design  
19 and digitization; and

20 (2) is committed to supporting education, inno-  
21 vation, entrepreneurship, personal expression, self-  
22 sufficiency, and social impact for its community  
23 through digital fabrication.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a  
25 nonprofit corporation to be known as the “National Fab

1 Lab Network” (in this Act referred to as the “corpora-  
2 tion”), which shall not be an agency or establishment of  
3 the United States Government. The corporation shall be  
4 subject to the provisions of this Act, and, to the extent  
5 consistent with this Act, to the District of Columbia Non-  
6 profit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section 29–501 et  
7 seq.).

8 (c) GOALS AND ACTIVITIES.—

9 (1) GOALS.—The goals of the corporation are  
10 as follows:

11 (A) To provide universal access to digital  
12 fabrication.

13 (B) To foster current and future fab labs.

14 (C) To create a national network of con-  
15 nected local fab labs to empower individuals  
16 and communities in the United States.

17 (D) To foster the use of distributed digital  
18 fabrication tools—

19 (i) to promote science, technology, en-  
20 gineering and math skills;

21 (ii) to increase invention and innova-  
22 tion;

23 (iii) to create businesses and jobs;

24 (iv) to fulfill personal, professional,  
25 and community needs;

1 (v) to create value and mitigate harm;

2 (vi) to increase self-sufficiency for in-

3 dividuals, households, and communities;

4 and

5 (vii) to align workforce development

6 with new and emerging jobs.

7 (E) To provide a platform for education

8 and research, to catalyze new methods in

9 science, technology, engineering, and mathe-

10 matics education, and to introduce digital fab-

11 rication as an essential new literacy.

12 (F) To create new ways of educating the

13 workforce that will enable workers to compete

14 in a 21st century global marketplace.

15 (2) ACTIVITIES.—To attain the goals described

16 in paragraph (1), the corporation shall carry out ac-

17 tivities, including the following:

18 (A) Seek to establish a minimum of one

19 fab lab in each congressional district,

20 prioritizing underserved communities.

21 (B) Seek to establish additional fab labs

22 within the network created under paragraph

23 (1)(C), in response to local demand, and pro-

24 vide guidelines for their sustainable operation.

1           (C) Link fab labs into a national network  
2           and promote further expansion of fab labs  
3           across the United States.

4           (D) Serve as a resource to assist diverse  
5           public and private stakeholders with the effec-  
6           tive operation of fab labs and the training of  
7           fab lab leaders and mentors.

8           (E) Maintain a national registry of fab  
9           labs.

10          (F) Provide standards and protocols for  
11          connecting fab labs regionally, nationally, and  
12          globally.

13          (G) Assist existing fab labs in producing  
14          additional fab labs.

15          (d) MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.—Except as  
16          provided in this Act, eligibility for membership in the cor-  
17          poration and the rights and privileges of members shall  
18          be in accordance with the laws governing tax exempt orga-  
19          nizations in the District of Columbia.

20          (e) GOVERNING BODY.—

21               (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
22               graph (2), directors, officers, and other staff of the  
23               corporation, and their powers and duties, shall be in  
24               accordance with the laws governing tax exempt orga-  
25               nizations in the District of Columbia.

1 (2) BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

2 (A) COMPOSITION.—The board of the cor-  
3 poration shall be composed of not fewer than 7  
4 members and not more than 15 members.

5 (B) REPRESENTATION.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—The membership of  
7 the board of the corporation shall collec-  
8 tively represent the diversity of fab labs.

9 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—At a minimum,  
10 the board of the corporation shall be com-  
11 posed of members from geographic regions  
12 across the United States, Tribal commu-  
13 nities, educational and research institu-  
14 tions, libraries, nonprofit and commercial  
15 organizations, diverse demographic groups,  
16 and the Fab Foundation.

17 (iii) INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION.—

18 An individual member of the board of the  
19 corporation may represent more than one  
20 board role and additional roles may be  
21 added to reflect the diversity of the fab lab  
22 ecosystem.

23 (C) SELECTION.—The initial board of the  
24 corporation shall be chosen, in consultation with  
25 representatives from the Fab Foundation and

1 in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), as fol-  
2 lows:

3 (i) Two shall be appointed by the ma-  
4 jority leader of the Senate.

5 (ii) Two shall be appointed by the mi-  
6 nority leader of the Senate.

7 (iii) Two shall be appointed by the  
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9 (iv) Two shall be appointed by the mi-  
10 nority leader of the House of Representa-  
11 tives.

12 (f) POWERS.—The corporation may—

13 (1) coordinate the creation of a national net-  
14 work of local fab labs in the United States;

15 (2) issue guidelines for the sustainable oper-  
16 ation of fab labs;

17 (3) issue standards and guidelines for fab labs;

18 (4) serve as a resource for organizations and  
19 communities seeking to create fab labs by providing  
20 information, assessing suitability, advising on the lab  
21 lifecycle, and maintaining descriptions of prospective  
22 and operating sites;

23 (5) accept funds from private individuals, orga-  
24 nizations, government agencies, or other organiza-  
25 tions;

1           (6) distribute funds to other organizations to  
2 establish and operate fab labs as members of the  
3 corporation;

4           (7) facilitate communication between other or-  
5 ganizations seeking to join the corporation with  
6 operational entities that can source and install fab  
7 labs, provide training, assist with operations, ac-  
8 count for spending, and assess impact;

9           (8) communicate the benefits available through  
10 membership in the corporation to communities and  
11 the public;

12           (9) facilitate and participate in synergistic pro-  
13 grams, including workforce training, job creation, re-  
14 searching the enabling technology and broader im-  
15 pacts of such programs, and the production of civic  
16 infrastructure;

17           (10) develop processes and methods to mitigate  
18 risks associated with digital fabrication;

19           (11) develop and amend a constitution and by-  
20 laws for the management of its property and the  
21 regulation of its affairs;

22           (12) choose directors, officers, trustees, man-  
23 agers, employees, and agents as the activities of the  
24 corporation require;

25           (13) make contracts;

1           (14) acquire, own, lease, encumber, and trans-  
2           fer property as necessary or convenient to carry out  
3           the purposes of the corporation;

4           (15) borrow money, issue instruments of indebt-  
5           edness, and secure its obligations by granting secu-  
6           rity interests in its property;

7           (16) charge and collect membership dues and  
8           subscription fees; and

9           (17) sue and be sued.

10          (g) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO NAME, TERM, SEALS, EM-  
11          BLEMS, AND BADGES.—The corporation and its partici-  
12          pating digital fabrication labs have the exclusive right to  
13          use—

14               (1) the name “National Fab Lab Network”;  
15          and

16               (2) any seals, emblems, and badges the corpora-  
17          tion adopts.

18          (h) RESTRICTIONS.—

19               (1) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation  
20          may not issue securities of any kind or declare or  
21          pay a dividend.

22               (2) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—  
23          The income or assets of the corporation may not  
24          inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a direc-  
25          tor, officer, or member during the life of the cor-

1       poration under this Act. This paragraph does not  
2       prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to  
3       an officer or reimbursement for actual necessary ex-  
4       penses in amounts approved by the board of the cor-  
5       poration.

6               (3) LOANS.—The corporation may not make a  
7       loan to a director, officer, or employee.

8               (4) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR  
9       AUTHORITY.—The corporation may not claim con-  
10      gressional approval or the authority of the United  
11      States Government for any of its activities, but may  
12      recognize establishment of the corporation pursuant  
13      to subsection (b) of this section.

14      (i) RECORDS AND INSPECTION.—

15              (1) RECORDS.—The corporation shall keep—

16                      (A) correct and complete records of ac-  
17                      count;

18                      (B) minutes of the proceedings of its mem-  
19                      bers, the board of the corporation, and commit-  
20                      tees having any of the authority of the board;  
21                      and

22                      (C) at its principal office, a record of the  
23                      names and addresses of its members entitled to  
24                      vote.

1           (2) INSPECTIONS.—A member entitled to vote,  
2           or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect  
3           the records of the corporation for any proper pur-  
4           pose, at any reasonable time.

5           (j) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
6           the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less fre-  
7           quently than annually thereafter, the corporation shall  
8           submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
9           Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
10          Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
11          resentatives a report on the activities of the corporation  
12          during the prior fiscal year.