

Rapid Innovation Fund Enhancement Act of 2016
Senators Jeanne Shaheen and David Vitter
Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title

“Rapid Innovation Fund Enhancement Act of 2016”

Section 2. Reestablishment and Enhancement of Defense Research and Development Rapid Innovation Program.

Subsection (a): Clarifies that the Rapid Innovation Fund Program (RIF) should be coordinated by the Secretary and senior acquisition officials in the components and services of the department.

Subsection (b): Requires DOD to obligate a minimum of 1 percent of the aggregate research, development, test, and evaluation (RTD&E) budget of the weapons development categories (of 6.4 and above) for the purposes of RIF. The eligible portions of the RTD&E budget exclude funding that universities typically compete for and specifically includes:

- Advanced Component Development and Prototypes (6.4)
- System Development and Demonstration (6.5)
- RTD&E Management Support (6.6)
- Operational System Development (6.7)

This language shall not prohibit the Secretary, Services, or components from spending more than 1 percent of the RTD&E budget on RIF.

Subsection (c): Requires an annual briefing to the Senate and House committees on Armed Services and Senate and House committees on Small Business. The briefing shall include information on each of the funded projects, and for each project, the award amount, the supported acquisition program, the anticipated timeline to transition the project to a program of record, whether the award was made to a small business, a nontraditional defense contractor, or a firm participating in the SBIR/STTR programs, and whether competitive procedures were used to evaluate and select the project.

Subsection (d): Restates eligible technologies and the order of priority for RIF as intended by Congress when the program was enacted by creating a definition section. Eligible entities are defined as technologies that have received a phase II SBIR/STTR, technology developed by nontraditional contractors, technology developed by the defense labs, or other innovative technology, as determined by the Secretary.

Subsection (e): Requires the Secretary to issue guidance to department personnel on using SBIR/STTR direct award authority for awards in the RIF program, and guidance on how SBIR/STTR firms can submit RIF proposals separate from using a broad agency announcement (BAA).