

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2326

To establish an alternative fuel vehicle energy demonstration and commercial application of energy technology competitive grant pilot program within the Department of Energy to facilitate the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science

A BILL

To establish an alternative fuel vehicle energy demonstration and commercial application of energy technology competitive grant pilot program within the Department of Energy to facilitate the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

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 “Alternative Fuel Vehi-
5 cle Acceleration Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions
8 apply:

1 (1) ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
3 subparagraph (B), the term “alternative fuel
4 vehicle” means a motor vehicle that is
5 powered—

6 (i) in whole or in part by electricity,
7 including electricity supplied by a fuel cell;

8 (ii) by liquefied natural gas;

9 (iii) by compressed natural gas;

10 (iv) by liquefied petroleum gas;

11 (v) by hydrogen; or

12 (vi) by methanol at no less than 85
13 percent by volume.

14 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “alternative
15 fuel vehicle” does not include—

16 (i) any vehicle designed to operate
17 solely on gasoline or diesel derived from
18 fossil fuels, regardless of whether it can
19 also be operated on an alternative fuel; or

20 (ii) any vehicle that the Secretary de-
21 termines, by rule, does not yield substan-
22 tial environmental benefits over a vehicle
23 operating solely on gasoline or diesel de-
24 rived from fossil fuels.

1 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-
2 gram” means the competitive grant program estab-
3 lished under section 3.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Energy.

6 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
8 an alternative fuel vehicle energy demonstration and com-
9 mercial application of energy technology competitive grant
10 pilot program to provide not more than 15 grants to State
11 governments, local governments, or metropolitan transpor-
12 tation authorities to carry out a project or projects for
13 the purposes described in subsection (b).

14 (b) GRANT PURPOSES.—Grants under this section
15 may be used for the following purposes:

16 (1) The acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles,
17 including—

18 (A) passenger vehicles;

19 (B) buses used for public transportation or
20 transportation to and from schools;

21 (C) delivery vehicles for goods or services;

22 (D) ground support vehicles at public air-
23 ports, including vehicles to carry baggage or
24 push airplanes away from terminal gates; and

1 (E) motorized two-wheel bicycles, scooters,
2 or other vehicles for use by law enforcement
3 personnel or other State or local government or
4 metropolitan transportation authority employ-
5 ees.

6 (2) Infrastructure necessary to directly support
7 a project funded by the grant, including fueling and
8 other support equipment.

9 (3) Operation and maintenance of vehicles, in-
10 frastructure, and equipment acquired as part of a
11 project funded by the grant.

12 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

13 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall issue
14 requirements for applying for grants under the pilot
15 program. At a minimum, the Secretary shall require
16 that applications be submitted by the head of a
17 State or local government or a metropolitan trans-
18 portation authority, or any combination thereof, and
19 shall include—

20 (A) at least one project to enable pas-
21 sengers or goods to be transferred directly from
22 one alternative fuel vehicle to another in a
23 linked transportation system;

1 (B) a description of the projects proposed
2 in the application, including how well they meet
3 the requirements of this Act;

4 (C) an estimate of the ridership or degree
5 of use of the projects proposed in the applica-
6 tion;

7 (D) an estimate of the air pollution emis-
8 sions reduced and fossil fuel displaced as a re-
9 sult of the projects proposed in the application,
10 and a plan to collect and disseminate environ-
11 mental data, related to the projects to be fund-
12 ed under the grant, over the life of the projects;

13 (E) a description of how the projects pro-
14 posed in the application will be sustainable
15 without Federal assistance after the completion
16 of the term of the grant;

17 (F) a complete description of the costs of
18 each project proposed in the application, includ-
19 ing acquisition, construction, operation, and
20 maintenance costs over the expected life of the
21 project; and

22 (G) a description of which costs of the
23 projects proposed in the application will be sup-
24 ported by Federal assistance and which by as-
25 sistance from non-Federal partners, including

1 State and local governments, metropolitan
2 transportation authorities, and private entities.

3 (2) PARTNERS.—An applicant under paragraph
4 (1) may carry out projects under the pilot program
5 in partnership with one or more private entities.

6 (d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In evaluating applica-
7 tions under the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider
8 each applicant’s previous experience involving alternative
9 fuel vehicles and shall give priority consideration to appli-
10 cations that—

11 (1) are most likely to maximize protection of
12 the environment;

13 (2) demonstrate the greatest commitment on
14 the part of the applicant to ensure funding for the
15 proposed projects and the greatest likelihood that
16 each project proposed in the application will be
17 maintained or expanded after Federal assistance
18 under this Act is completed; and

19 (3) exceed the minimum requirements of sub-
20 section (c)(1)(A).

21 (e) PILOT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall
23 not provide more than \$20,000,000 in Federal as-
24 sistance under the pilot program to any applicant.

1 (2) COST SHARING.—The Secretary shall not
2 provide more than 50 percent of the cost, incurred
3 during the period of the grant, of any project under
4 the pilot program.

5 (3) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF GRANTS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall not fund any applicant under the pilot
7 program for more than 5 years.

8 (4) DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—The
9 Secretary shall seek to the maximum extent prac-
10 ticable to achieve nationwide deployment of alter-
11 native fuel vehicles through the pilot program, and
12 shall ensure a broad geographic distribution of
13 project sites.

14 (5) TRANSFER OF INFORMATION AND KNOWL-
15 EDGE.—The Secretary shall establish mechanisms to
16 ensure that the information and knowledge gained
17 by participants in the pilot program are transferred
18 among the pilot program participants and to other
19 interested parties, including other applicants that
20 submitted applications.

21 (f) SCHEDULE.—

22 (1) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary shall publish in the Federal Register, Com-
25 merce Business Daily, and elsewhere as appropriate,

1 a request for applications to undertake projects
2 under the pilot program. Applications shall be due
3 within 180 days of the publication of the notice.

4 (2) SELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date by which applications for grants are due,
6 the Secretary shall select by competitive, peer review
7 all applications for projects to be awarded a grant
8 under the pilot program.

9 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

10 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
11 the date grants are awarded under this Act, the Secretary
12 shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
14 Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

15 (1) an identification of the grant recipients and
16 a description of the projects to be funded;

17 (2) an identification of other applicants that
18 submitted applications for the pilot program; and

19 (3) a description of the mechanisms used by the
20 Secretary to ensure that the information and knowl-
21 edge gained by participants in the pilot program are
22 transferred among the pilot program participants
23 and to other interested parties, including other ap-
24 plicants that submitted applications.

1 (b) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
3 until the pilot program ends, the Secretary shall transmit
4 to the Committee on Science of the House of Representa-
5 tives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
6 sources of the Senate a report containing an evaluation
7 of the effectiveness of the pilot program, including an as-
8 sessment of the benefits to the environment derived from
9 the projects included in the pilot program as well as an
10 estimate of the potential benefits to the environment to
11 be derived from widespread application of alternative fuel
12 vehicles.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary \$200,000,000 to carry out this Act, to remain avail-
16 able until expended.

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