

## Union Calendar No. 186

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2053

[Report No. 115–256]

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States by funding activities at mining schools, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JULY 25, 2017

Additional sponsors: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BOST

JULY 25, 2017

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 6, 2017]

# **A BILL**

To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States by funding activities at mining schools, 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 “Mining Schools En-*  
5 *hancement Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR MINING SCHOOLS.**

7        *Section 721 of the Surface Mining Control and Rec-*  
8 *lamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1309b) is amended—*

9            *(1) by striking “The Office of Surface Mining*  
10 *Reclamation and Enforcement” and inserting the fol-*  
11 *lowing:*

12            *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Of-*  
13 *fice of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement”;* and

14            *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

15            *“(b) MINING PROGRAM SUPPORT.—*

16            *“(1) Of the amounts made available under sub-*  
17 *section (d) for activities authorized under this section,*  
18 *the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclama-*  
19 *tion and Enforcement shall ensure that at least 70*  
20 *percent is expended to enhance and support mining*  
21 *and mineral engineering programs in the United*  
22 *States by funding activities at mining schools.*

23            *“(2) In expending funds under this section, the*  
24 *Director shall consult with relevant stakeholders and*  
25 *ensure a significant opportunity for participation by*

1        *undergraduate and graduate students at mining*  
2        *schools.*

3                *“(3) The Director shall ensure that the activities*  
4        *conducted under this section relate to resource devel-*  
5        *opment and production, and include—*

6                        *“(A) studies of mining, mineral extraction*  
7        *efficiency, and related processing technology;*

8                        *“(B) mineral economics, reclamation tech-*  
9        *nology, and practices for active mining oper-*  
10        *ations;*

11                        *“(C) the development of remining systems*  
12        *and technologies that facilitate reclamation that*  
13        *fosters the recovery of resources at abandoned*  
14        *mine sites;*

15                        *“(D) investigations of mineral resource ex-*  
16        *traction methods that reduce environmental and*  
17        *human impacts;*

18                        *“(E) reducing dependence on foreign energy*  
19        *supplies;*

20                        *“(F) enhancing the competitiveness of*  
21        *United States energy technology exports;*

22                        *“(G) the extraction or processing of coin-*  
23        *ciding mineralization, including rare earth ele-*  
24        *ments, within coal, coal processing byproduct,*  
25        *overburden or coal residue; and*

1           “(H) *enhancing technologies and practices*  
2           *related to mitigation of acid mine drainage, re-*  
3           *forestation, and revegetation in the reclamation*  
4           *of land and water resources adversely affected by*  
5           *coal mining.*

6           “(c) *MINING SCHOOL DEFINED.—In this section the*  
7           *term ‘mining school’ means a mining, metallurgical, or*  
8           *mineral engineering program or department accredited by*  
9           *the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology,*  
10           *Inc., that is located at an institution of higher education*  
11           *(as that term is defined in section 631(a) of the Higher*  
12           *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a))) in the United*  
13           *States.*

14           “(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*  
15           *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*  
16           *\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2024.”.*

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