

Union Calendar No. 404

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4447

[Report No. 116–504, Part I]

To establish an energy storage and microgrid grant and technical assistance program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. NORMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COLE, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Energy and Commerce with an amendment

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

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 20, 2019]

A BILL

To establish an energy storage and microgrid grant and technical assistance program.

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 “Expanding Access to*
5 *Sustainable Energy Act of 2019”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:*

8 (1) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-*
9 *ty” means—*

10 (A) *a rural electric cooperative; or*

11 (B) *a nonprofit organization working with*
12 *at least 6 rural electric cooperatives.*

13 (2) *ENERGY STORAGE.—The term “energy stor-*
14 *age” means the use of equipment or facilities relating*
15 *to the electric grid that are capable of absorbing and*
16 *converting energy, as applicable, storing the energy*
17 *for a period of time, and dispatching the energy,*
18 *that—*

19 (A) *use mechanical, electrochemical, bio-*
20 *chemical, or thermal processes, to convert and*
21 *store energy that was generated at an earlier*
22 *time for use at a later time;*

23 (B) *use mechanical, electrochemical, bio-*
24 *chemical, or thermal processes to convert and*
25 *store energy generated from mechanical processes*

1 *that would otherwise be wasted for delivery at a*
2 *later time; or*

3 *(C) convert and store energy in an electric,*
4 *thermal, or gaseous state for direct use for heat-*
5 *ing or cooling at a later time in a manner that*
6 *avoids the need to use electricity or other fuel*
7 *sources at that later time, as is offered by grid-*
8 *enabled water heaters.*

9 *(3) ISLAND.—The term “island mode” means a*
10 *mode in which a distributed generator or energy stor-*
11 *age device continues to power a location in the ab-*
12 *sence of electric power from the primary source.*

13 *(4) MICROGRID.—The term “microgrid” means*
14 *an interconnected system of loads and distributed en-*
15 *ergy resources, including generators and energy stor-*
16 *age devices, within clearly defined electrical bound-*
17 *aries that—*

18 *(A) acts as a single controllable entity with*
19 *respect to the electric grid; and*

20 *(B) can connect to, and disconnect from, the*
21 *electric grid to operate in both grid-connected*
22 *mode and island mode.*

23 *(5) RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—The term*
24 *“renewable energy source” has the meaning given the*

1 *term in section 609(a) of the Public Utility Regu-*
 2 *latory Policies Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 918c(a)).*

3 (6) *RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.*—*The term*
 4 *“rural electric cooperative” means an electric coopera-*
 5 *tive (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Power Act*
 6 *(16 U.S.C. 796)) that sells electric energy to persons*
 7 *in rural areas.*

8 (7) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
 9 *the Secretary of Energy.*

10 **SEC. 3. ENERGY STORAGE AND MICROGRID ASSISTANCE**
 11 **PROGRAM.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180 days after the*
 13 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish*
 14 *a program under which the Secretary shall—*

15 (1) *provide grants to eligible entities under sub-*
 16 *section (c);*

17 (2) *provide technical assistance to eligible enti-*
 18 *ties under subsection (d); and*

19 (3) *disseminate information to eligible entities*
 20 *on—*

21 (A) *the activities described in subsections*
 22 *(c)(1) and (d); and*

23 (B) *potential and existing energy storage*
 24 *and microgrid projects.*

1 (b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.*—*The Secretary may*
2 *enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity*
3 *to carry out subsection (a).*

4 (c) *GRANTS.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall award*
6 *grants to eligible entities for identifying, evaluating,*
7 *designing, and demonstrating energy storage and*
8 *microgrid projects that utilize energy from renewable*
9 *energy sources.*

10 (2) *APPLICATION.*—*To be eligible to receive a*
11 *grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall*
12 *submit to the Secretary an application at such time,*
13 *in such manner, and containing such information as*
14 *the Secretary may require.*

15 (3) *USE OF GRANT.*—*An eligible entity that re-*
16 *ceives a grant under paragraph (1)—*

17 (A) *shall use the grant—*

18 (i) *to conduct feasibility studies to as-*
19 *sess the potential for implementation or im-*
20 *provement of energy storage or microgrid*
21 *projects;*

22 (ii) *to analyze and implement strate-*
23 *gies to overcome barriers to energy storage*
24 *or microgrid project implementation, in-*

cluding financial, contracting, siting, and
permitting barriers;

(iii) to conduct detailed engineering of
energy storage or microgrid projects;

(iv) to perform a cost-benefit analysis
with respect to an energy storage or
microgrid project;

(v) to plan for both the short- and
long-term inclusion of energy storage or
microgrid projects into the future develop-
ment plans of the eligible entity; or

(vi) to purchase and install necessary
equipment, materials, and supplies for dem-
onstration of emerging technologies; and

(B) may use the grant to obtain technical
assistance from experts in carrying out the ac-
tivities described in subparagraph (A).

(4) *CONDITION.*—As a condition of receiving a
grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall—

(A) implement a public awareness cam-
paign, in coordination with the Secretary, about
the project implemented under the grant in the
community in which the eligible entity is lo-
cated;

1 (B) submit to the Secretary, and make
2 available to the public, a report that describes—

3 (i) any energy cost savings and envi-
4 ronmental benefits achieved under the
5 project; and

6 (ii) the results of the project, including
7 quantitative assessments to the extent prac-
8 ticable, associated with each activity de-
9 scribed in paragraph (3)(A); and

10 (C) create and disseminate tools and re-
11 sources that will benefit other rural electric co-
12 operatives, which may include cost calculators,
13 guidebooks, handbooks, templates, and training
14 courses.

15 (5) *COST-SHARE*.—Activities under this sub-
16 section shall be subject to the cost-sharing require-
17 ments of section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
18 (42 U.S.C. 16352).

19 (d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*.—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL*.—In carrying out the program
21 established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
22 provide eligible entities with technical assistance re-
23 lating to—

24 (A) identifying opportunities for energy
25 storage and microgrid projects;

1 (B) understanding the technical and eco-
2 nomic characteristics of energy storage or
3 microgrid projects;

4 (C) understanding financing alternatives;

5 (D) permitting and siting issues;

6 (E) obtaining case studies of similar and
7 successful energy storage or microgrid projects;

8 (F) reviewing and obtaining computer soft-
9 ware for assessment, design, and operation and
10 maintenance of energy storage or microgrid sys-
11 tems; and

12 (G) understanding and utilizing the reli-
13 ability and resiliency benefits of energy storage
14 and microgrid projects.

15 (2) *EXTERNAL CONTRACTS.*—In carrying out
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into contracts
17 with third-party experts, including engineering, fi-
18 nance, and insurance experts, to provide technical as-
19 sistance to eligible entities relating to the activities
20 described in such paragraph, or other relevant activi-
21 ties, as determined by the Secretary.

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is authorized to be appro-
24 priated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
25 years 2021 through 2025.

1 *(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 per-*
2 *cent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for*
3 *each fiscal year shall be used for administrative expenses.*

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