

# Union Calendar No. 404

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4447

**[Report No. 116-504, Part I]**

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

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## 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]

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# **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-*

1                    *cluding financial, contracting, siting, and*  
2                    *permitting barriers;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

20                   *(A) implement a public awareness cam-*  
21                   *paign, in coordination with the Secretary, about*  
22                   *the project implemented under the grant in the*  
23                   *community in which the eligible entity is lo-*  
24                   *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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