

Calendar No. 359

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2688

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, 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 “Technology Transi-
5 tions Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS.**

2 Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
3 U.S.C. 16391) is amended—

4 (1) by striking subsection (a) and all that fol-
5 lows through “The Coordinator” in subsection (b)
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(a) OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
9 within the Department an Office of Technology
10 Transitions (referred to in this section as the ‘Of-
11 fice’).

12 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall
13 be—

14 “(A) to expand the commercial impact of
15 the research investments of the Department;
16 and

17 “(B) to focus on commercializing tech-
18 nologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
19 and technologies that support other missions of
20 the Department.

21 “(3) GOALS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
23 mission and activities of the Office, the Chief
24 Commercialization Officer appointed under
25 paragraph (4) shall, with respect to commer-
26 cialization activities, meet not less than two of

1 the goals described in subparagraph (B) and, to
2 the maximum extent practicable, meet all of the
3 goals described in that subparagraph.

4 “(B) GOALS DESCRIBED.—The goals re-
5 ferred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

6 “(i) Reduction of greenhouse gas
7 emissions.

8 “(ii) Ensuring economic competitive-
9 ness.

10 “(iii) Enhancement of domestic en-
11 ergy security and national security.

12 “(iv) Enhancement of domestic jobs.

13 “(v) *Any other missions of the Depart-*
14 *ment, as determined by the Secretary.*

15 “(4) CHIEF COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICER.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be
17 headed by an officer, who shall be known as the
18 ‘Chief Commercialization Officer’, and who
19 shall report directly to, and be appointed by,
20 the Secretary.

21 “(B) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR.—The Chief
22 Commercialization Officer shall be the principal
23 advisor to the Secretary on all matters relating
24 to technology transfer and commercialization.

1 “(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Com-
2 mercialization Officer”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
5 section (d)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

6 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
7 through (4) as clauses (i) through (iv), respec-
8 tively, and indenting appropriately; and

9 (C) by striking the subsection designation
10 and heading and all that follows through “The
11 Coordinator” in the matter preceding clause (i)
12 (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

13 “(D) DUTIES.—The Chief Commercializa-
14 tion Officer”;

15 (3) by adding at the end of subsection (a) (as
16 amended by paragraph (2)(C)) the following:

17 “(5) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the mis-
18 sion and activities of the Office, the Chief Commer-
19 cialization Officer shall coordinate with the senior
20 leadership of the Department, other relevant *pro-*
21 *gram* offices of the Department, National Labora-
22 tories, the Technology Transfer Working Group es-
23 tablished under subsection (b), the Technology
24 Transfer Policy Board, and other stakeholders (in-
25 cluding private industry).”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)
2 as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

3 (5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by
4 striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection
5 (e)”.

6 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY**
7 **PROGRAMS.**

8 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall conduct a review
10 of all emission reduction research and development pro-
11 grams under the Department of Energy—

12 (1) to identify each program the mission of
13 which is to develop technologies that reduce emis-
14 sions;

15 (2) to examine the extent to which the pro-
16 grams identified under paragraph (1) overlap or are
17 duplicative;

18 (3) to identify the technologies available to re-
19 duce emissions that are not covered by any of the
20 programs identified under paragraph (1); and

21 (4) to develop recommendations as to how over-
22 lapping or duplicative programs under paragraph (2)
23 may be combined or restructured to be more effi-
24 cient.

1 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF APPLIED ENERGY PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy (referred
4 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a review
5 of all applied energy research and development programs
6 under the Department of Energy (referred to in this section
7 as the “Department”) that focus on researching and devel-
8 oping technologies that reduce emissions.

9 (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In conducting the review under
10 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

11 (1) identify each program described in that sub-
12 section the mission of which is to research and de-
13 velop technologies that reduce emissions;

14 (2) determine the type of services provided by
15 each program identified under paragraph (1), such as
16 grants and technical assistance;

17 (3) determine whether there are written program
18 goals for each program identified under paragraph
19 (1);

20 (4) examine the extent to which the programs
21 identified under paragraph (1) overlap or are dupli-
22 cative; and

23 (5) develop recommendations—

24 (A) as to how any overlapping or duplica-
25 tive programs identified under paragraph (4)

1 *should be restructured or consolidated, including*
2 *by any necessary legislation;*

3 *(B) as to how to identify technologies de-*
4 *scribed in paragraph (1) that—*

5 *(i) are not served by a single program*
6 *office at the Department; or*

7 *(ii) the research and development of*
8 *which may require collaboration with other*
9 *Federal agencies; and*

10 *(C) for methods to improve the programs*
11 *identified under paragraph (1), including by es-*
12 *tablishing program goals, assessing workforce*
13 *considerations and technical skills, or increasing*
14 *collaboration with other Federal agencies and*
15 *stakeholders (including private industry).*

16 *(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the Sec-*
17 *retary completes the review under subsection (a), the Sec-*
18 *retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Nat-*
19 *ural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on*
20 *Science, Space, and Technology and Energy and Commerce*
21 *of the House of Representatives a report describing the re-*
22 *sults of and the recommendations developed under the re-*
23 *view.*

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