

Union Calendar No. 389

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4270

[Report No. 117-541]

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2021

Mr. LAMB (for himself, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LUCAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

OCTOBER 7, 2022

Additional sponsor: Mrs. FLETCHER

OCTOBER 7, 2022

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 June 30, 2021]

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, 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 “Abandoned Well Remedi-*
 5 *ation Research and Development Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.**

7 *The Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended—*

8 *(1) in subtitle F of title IX (42 U.S.C. 16291 et*
 9 *seq.), by inserting after section 969D the following:*

10 **“SEC. 969E. ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOP-**
 11 **MENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

12 *“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after*
 13 *the date of enactment of the Abandoned Well Remediation*
 14 *Research and Development Act, the Secretary of Energy*
 15 *shall, in coordination with relevant Federal and state agen-*
 16 *cies and entities, establish a research, development, and*
 17 *demonstration program to improve—*

18 *“(1) data collection on the location of abandoned*
 19 *wells;*

20 *“(2) the plugging, remediation, reclamation, and*
 21 *repurposing of abandoned wells; and*

22 *“(3) strategies to mitigate potential environ-*
 23 *mental impacts of documented and undocumented*
 24 *abandoned wells.*

1 “(b) *ACTIVITIES.*—*The research, development, and*
2 *demonstration under subsection (a) shall include activities*
3 *to improve—*

4 “(1) *remote sensor capabilities, LiDAR capabili-*
5 *ties, optical gas imaging, magnetic survey technology,*
6 *and any other technologies relevant to the efficient*
7 *identification of abandoned wells;*

8 “(2) *understanding of how certain parameters of*
9 *abandoned wells affect methane emission rates of such*
10 *wells, including paramaters such as well age, well*
11 *depth, geology, construction, case material, and geo-*
12 *graphic region;*

13 “(3) *the efficiency and cost-efficacy of processes*
14 *for plugging, remediating, reclaiming, and*
15 *repurposing abandoned wells, including—*

16 “(A) *improvement of processes and tech-*
17 *nologies for the unique challenges associated with*
18 *plugging remote abandoned wells;*

19 “(B) *use of low carbon, lightweight cement*
20 *or use of alternative materials and additives for*
21 *plugging purposes; and*

22 “(C) *repurposing of abandoned wells for al-*
23 *ternative uses, including geothermal power pro-*
24 *duction or carbon capture, utilization, and stor-*
25 *age; and*

1 “(4) *understanding of the impacts of abandoned*
 2 *wells on groundwater quality and contamination.*

3 “(c) *COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program es-*
 4 *tablished in (a), the Secretary shall ensure coordination of*
 5 *these activities with institutions of higher education, the*
 6 *Department of Energy National Laboratories, and the pri-*
 7 *vate sector.*

8 “(d) *ABANDONED WELL DEFINED.—In this section,*
 9 *the term ‘abandoned well’ means a well originally drilled*
 10 *in connection with oil and gas operations that is not being*
 11 *used, has not been plugged, and has no anticipated use in*
 12 *oil and gas operations.*

13 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are*
 14 *authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section—*

15 “(1) *\$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;*

16 “(2) *\$31,250,000 for fiscal year 2023;*

17 “(3) *\$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2024;*

18 “(4) *\$33,750,000 for fiscal year 2025; and*

19 “(5) *\$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”; and*

20 (2) *in section 1(b) (42 U.S.C. 15801 note), in the*
 21 *table of contents, by inserting after the matter related*
 22 *to section 969D the following:*

 “Sec. 969E. *Abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration pro-*
 gram.”.

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