

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 2368

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

July 31, 2019

Mr. Coons (for himself and Ms. McSally) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, 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 "Nuclear Energy Re-
- 5 newal Act of 2019".

1	SEC. 2. LIGHT WATER REACTOR SUSTAINABILITY PRO-
2	GRAM.
3	Section 621 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public
4	Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 782) is amended—
5	(1) by striking "Section" and inserting the fol-
6	lowing:
7	"(a) Amendment to Atomic Energy Act of
8	1954.—Section"; and
9	(2) by adding at the end the following:
10	"(b) Light Water Reactor Sustainability Pro-
11	GRAM.—
12	"(1) In general.—Notwithstanding any other
13	provision of law, the Secretary shall expand the light
14	water reactor sustainability program of the Depart-
15	ment, to the maximum extent practicable—
16	"(A) to ensure the achievement of max-
17	imum benefits from existing nuclear generation;
18	"(B) to accommodate the increase in appli-
19	cations for nuclear power plant license renewals
20	expected as of the date of enactment of this
21	subsection;
22	"(C) to enable the continued operation of
23	existing nuclear power plants through tech-
24	nology development;

1	"(D) to improve the performance and re-
2	duce the operation and maintenance costs of
3	nuclear power plants; and
4	"(E) to promote the use of high-perform-
5	ance computing to simulate nuclear reactor
6	processes.
7	"(2) Authorization of appropriations.—
8	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
9	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
10	section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
11	through 2029.".
12	SEC. 3. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR
13	TECHNOLOGIES.
14	(a) Licensing by Nuclear Regulatory Commis-
. ~	SION.—Section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42
15	Sion.—Section 105 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1554 (42
15 16	U.S.C. 2133) is amended—
16	U.S.C. 2133) is amended—
16 17	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by
16 17 18	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by striking "any any" and inserting "any"; and
16 17 18 19	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by striking "any any" and inserting "any"; and (2) by inserting after subsection d. the fol-
16 17 18 19 20	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by striking "any any" and inserting "any"; and (2) by inserting after subsection d. the following:
116 117 118 119 220 221	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by striking "any any" and inserting "any"; and (2) by inserting after subsection d. the following: "e. Advanced Nuclear Facilities and Tech-
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	U.S.C. 2133) is amended— (1) in subsection d., in the second sentence, by striking "any any" and inserting "any"; and (2) by inserting after subsection d. the following: "e. Advanced Nuclear Facilities and Technologies.—

1	a production facility, utilization facility, or tech-
2	nology, the use of a nuclear fission reactor, in-
3	cluding a prototype plant (as defined in section
4	50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations
5	(or successor regulations)), that represents sig-
6	nificant improvements compared to the most re-
7	cent generation of nuclear fission reactors, in-
8	cluding improvements such as—
9	"(i) additional inherent safety fea-
10	tures;
11	"(ii) lower waste yields;
12	"(iii) improved fuel performance;
13	"(iv) increased tolerance to loss of
14	fuel cooling;
15	"(v) enhanced reliability;
16	"(vi) increased proliferation resist-
17	ance;
18	"(vii) increased thermal efficiency;
19	"(viii) reduced consumption of cooling
20	water;
21	"(ix) the ability to integrate into elec-
22	tric applications and nonelectric applica-
23	tions;

1	"(x) modular sizes to allow for deploy-
2	ment that corresponds with the demand
3	for electricity; and
4	"(xi) operational flexibility to respond
5	to changes in demand for electricity and to
6	complement integration with intermittent
7	renewable energy.
8	"(B) Inclusion.—In this subsection, the
9	term 'advanced nuclear' includes, with respect
10	to a production facility, utilization facility, or
11	technology, the use of a nuclear fusion reactor.
12	"(2) Establishment of program.—The Sec-
13	retary of Energy, in coordination with the Commis-
14	sion, shall establish and carry out a program—
15	"(A) to develop certification and licensing
16	criteria with respect to advanced nuclear pro-
17	duction facilities and utilization facilities, in-
18	cluding for international licensing harmoni-
19	zation;
20	"(B) to provide assistance to eligible appli-
21	cants with respect to the certification and li-
22	censing of advanced nuclear production facili-
23	ties and utilization facilities; and
24	"(C) to establish such procedures as the
25	Secretary of Energy and the Commission deter-

1	mine to be appropriate for general public out-
2	reach relating to advanced nuclear technologies,
3	production facilities, and utilization facilities.
4	"(3) Authorization of appropriations.—
5	There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6	the program under this subsection \$15,000,000 for
7	the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2029.".
8	SEC. 4. NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION,
9	AND DEVELOPMENT.
10	(a) In General.—Section 952 of the Energy Policy
11	Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16272) is amended by adding at
12	the end the following:
13	"(e) Advanced Reactor Technologies Devel-
14	OPMENT PROGRAM.—
15	"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall carry
16	out a program under which the Secretary shall con-
17	duct research relating to the development of innova-
18	tive nuclear reactor technologies that may offer im-
19	proved safety, functionality, and affordability by en-
20	hancing existing nuclear technologies.
21	"(2) Requirements.—The program under this
22	subsection shall—
23	"(A) support efforts to reduce long-term
24	technical barriers for advanced nuclear energy
25	systems;

1	"(B) identify potential regulatory issues
2	relating to advanced nuclear reactors;
3	"(C) be carried out in consultation with
4	the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure
5	identification of any relevant concerns;
6	"(D) support international activities car-
7	ried out pursuant to—
8	"(i) the Generation IV International
9	Forum; or
10	"(ii) any other international collabo-
11	rative effort with respect to advanced nu-
12	clear reactor operations and safety;
13	"(E) support research and development re-
14	lating to enhancing the proliferation resistance
15	of nuclear technologies; and
16	"(F) support research and development
17	projects carried out by National Laboratories,
18	institutions of higher education, and other in-
19	dustry entities relating to nuclear technology,
20	including the development of—
21	"(i) codes and standards;
22	"(ii) sensors and instrumentation;
23	"(iii) probabilistic risk assessments
24	methods; and

1	"(iv) other technologies to support the
2	development of advanced nuclear reactor
3	systems.
4	"(3) Areas of focus and inclusions.—The
5	program under this subsection shall—
6	"(A) focus on research and development
7	activities relating to—
8	"(i) fast reactors;
9	"(ii) high-temperature, gas-cooled nu-
10	clear reactors; and
11	"(iii) molten salt reactors; and
12	"(B) with respect to the activities de-
13	scribed in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph
14	(A), include research and development relating
15	to advanced fuels.
16	"(4) Supercritical transformational
17	ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
18	"(A) In General.—In carrying out the
19	program under this subsection, the Secretary
20	shall develop and implement a public-private
21	cost-shared supercritical carbon dioxide (com-
22	monly known as 'sCO2') Brayton cycle subpro-
23	gram, including research and development of
24	supercritical carbon dioxide technologies.

1	"(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the
2	subprogram under this paragraph, the Sec-
3	retary shall solicit and evaluate plans to encour-
4	age innovation, support technology advances,
5	and enhance the safety and performance of ad-
6	vanced nuclear reactor systems.
7	"(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL.—The
8	Secretary shall establish a technical review
9	panel for the subprogram under this paragraph,
10	which shall carry out consultation and collabo-
11	ration with appropriate industry entities—
12	"(i) to evaluate advanced nuclear re-
13	actor technologies;
14	"(ii) to identify research and develop-
15	ment opportunities; and
16	"(iii) to publish information regarding
17	cost-shared research and development in-
18	vestment decisions to facilitate commer-
19	cialization.
20	"(5) Authorization of appropriations.—
21	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
23	section \$120,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
24	through 2029.

1	"(f) Fuel Cycle Research and Development
2	Program.—
3	"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall carry
4	out a program under which the Secretary shall con-
5	duct research relating to—
6	"(A) consent-based interim storage;
7	"(B) transportation of nuclear waste;
8	"(C) potential alternative disposal options
9	for Department-managed—
10	"(i) spent nuclear fuel; and
11	"(ii) high-level radioactive waste; and
12	"(D) disposition alternatives for defense-
13	related nuclear waste.
14	"(2) Areas of focus.—In carrying out this
15	subsection, the Secretary shall focus on activities re-
16	lating to—
17	"(A) relevant research and development
18	and
19	"(B) integrated waste management, includ-
20	ing by conducting research and development ac-
21	tivities relating to the storage, transportation
22	and disposal of used nuclear fuel and wastes
23	generated by existing and future fuel cycles.
24	"(3) Authorization of appropriations.—
25	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
2	section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
3	through 2029.
4	"(g) Material Recovery and Waste Form De-
5	VELOPMENT.—
6	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall carry
7	out a program under which the Secretary shall—
8	"(A) conduct research relating to advanced
9	nuclear material recovery and advanced nuclear
10	waste from development technologies to improve
11	fuel cycle performance with reductions in proc-
12	essing, waste generation, and potential for ma-
13	terial diversion; and
14	"(B) to the maximum extent practicable,
15	apply the technical expertise achieved through
16	that research to a broad range of programs and
17	activities, including activities relating to—
18	"(i) environmental remediation;
19	"(ii) national security; and
20	"(iii) subject to paragraph (2), civilian
21	nuclear applications.
22	"(2) CIVILIAN NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS.—Any
23	research carried out under this subsection relating
24	to civilian nuclear applications shall include research
25	relating to improving the economics and non-

1	proliferation attributes of recycling light water reac-
2	tor fuels and advanced reactor fuels.
3	"(3) Authorization of appropriations.—
4	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
5	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
6	section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
7	through 2029.
8	"(h) ADVANCED FUELS.—
9	"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall carry
10	out a program under which the Secretary shall con-
11	duct research relating to—
12	"(A) next-generation light water reactor
13	fuels that demonstrate enhanced—
14	"(i) performance; and
15	"(ii) accident tolerance; and
16	"(B) fuels that demonstrate enhanced—
17	"(i) proliferation resistance; and
18	"(ii) use of resources.
19	"(2) Requirements.—In carrying out the pro-
20	gram under this subsection, the Secretary shall—
21	"(A) focus on the development of accident-
22	tolerant fuel and cladding concepts that are ca-
23	pable of achieving the objective of initiating
24	core reloads by calendar year 2025;

1	"(B)(i) develop modeling capabilities for
2	new fuel concepts;
3	"(ii) conduct studies regarding the means
4	by which those concepts would impact reactor
5	economics, the fuel cycle, operations, safety,
6	and the environment; and
7	"(iii) subject to paragraph (3), publish the
8	studies conducted under clause (ii); and
9	"(C) cooperate with institutions of higher
10	education through the Nuclear Energy Univer-
11	sity and Integrated Research Projects programs
12	of the Department.
13	"(3) Sensitive information.—The Secretary
14	shall not publish any information under paragraph
15	(2)(B)(iii) that is detrimental to national security,
16	as determined by the Secretary.
17	"(4) Authorization of appropriations.—
18	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
19	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
20	section \$120,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
21	through 2029.
22	"(i) Nuclear Energy Enabling Tech-
23	NOLOGIES.—
24	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall carry
25	out a program under which the Secretary shall—

1	"(A) conduct research relating to modeling
2	and simulation tools;
3	"(B) provide access to unique nuclear en-
4	ergy research capabilities through the Nuclear
5	Science User Facilities of the Department; and
6	"(C) address workforce needs in critical,
7	focused nuclear energy-related fields.
8	"(2) Support for nuclear initiatives.—
9	The program under this subsection shall support the
10	goals, objectives, and activities of the National Reac-
11	tor Innovation Center and the Gateway for Acceler-
12	ated Innovation in Nuclear initiative of the Depart-
13	ment to make nuclear energy research capabilities
14	accessible to industry engineers and scientists
15	through a public-private partnership.
16	"(3) Crosscutting technology develop-
17	MENT SUBPROGRAM.—
18	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
19	program under this subsection, the Secretary
20	shall establish a crosscutting technology subpro-
21	gram, under which the Secretary shall provide
22	assistance for high-priority research and devel-
23	opment activities relating to innovative solu-
24	tions to nuclear energy challenges carried out
25	by—

1	"(i) institutions of higher education;
2	"(ii) National Laboratories; and
3	"(iii) industry entities.
4	"(B) Requirements.—In carrying out
5	the subprogram established under subparagraph
6	(A), the Secretary shall—
7	"(i) invest in competitive, nuclear en-
8	ergy-related infrastructure enhancement
9	activities carried out at National Labora-
10	tories to ensure researchers have access to
11	state-of-the-art research and development
12	resources;
13	"(ii) coordinate with other research
14	and development programs of the Office of
15	Nuclear Energy to ensure that developed
16	technologies and capabilities are part of an
17	integrated investment strategy, the overall
18	focus of which is improving safety, secu-
19	rity, reliability, and economics of operating
20	nuclear power plants; and
21	"(iii) focus on—
22	"(I) new capabilities relating to
23	nuclear energy research and develop-
24	ment;

1	"(II) enabling technologies be-
2	yond individual programs;
3	"(III) coordinating capabilities
4	among research and development pro-
5	grams of the Office of Nuclear En-
6	$\operatorname{ergy};$
7	"(IV) examining new classes of
8	materials not considered for nuclear
9	applications;
10	"(V) high-risk research, which
11	could potentially overcome techno-
12	logical limitations; and
13	"(VI) the potential for industry
14	partnerships to develop technologies
15	relating to storage, hydrogen produc-
16	tion, high-temperature process heat,
17	and other relevant areas.
18	"(4) Nuclear energy advanced modeling
19	AND SIMULATION SUBPROGRAM.—In carrying out
20	the program under this subsection, the Secretary
21	shall establish a nuclear energy advanced modeling
22	and simulation subprogram, under which the Sec-
23	retary shall develop advanced modeling and simula-
24	tion tools to support programs carried out by the
25	Office of Nuclear Energy, including multiscale mod-

1	els of physics and chemistry that support advanced
2	computational methods for simulations of nuclear
3	energy systems.
4	"(5) Nuclear science user facilities sub-
5	PROGRAM.—
6	"(A) In General.—In carrying out the
7	program under this subsection, the Secretary
8	shall establish a Nuclear Science User Facilities
9	subprogram under which the Secretary shall
10	provide assistance—
11	"(i) to promote the use of nuclear re-
12	search facilities; and
13	"(ii) to encourage engagement across
14	institutions of higher education, industry
15	entities, and National Laboratories relat-
16	ing to relevant nuclear science research.
17	"(B) Requirements.—
18	"(i) In General.—The Secretary
19	shall provide assistance under this para-
20	graph, and solicit applications under clause
21	(ii), on an annual basis.
22	"(ii) Applications.—To be eligible
23	to receive assistance under this paragraph
24	for a fiscal year, an individual or entity
25	conducting nuclear research shall submit

1	to the Secretary an application that de-
2	scribes—
3	"(I) the research project pro-
4	posed to be carried out at a nuclear
5	research facility;
6	"(II) timelines for the proposed
7	research; and
8	"(III) the Nuclear Science User
9	Facility at which the project is pro-
10	posed to be carried out.
11	"(iii) USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance
12	provided under this paragraph may be
13	used—
14	"(I) for experiment support and
15	laboratory services costs; and
16	"(II) only at a Nuclear Science
17	User Facility.
18	"(C) Access.—In carrying out the subpro-
19	gram under this paragraph, the Secretary shall
20	provide to recipients of assistance under the
21	subprogram no-cost access to—
22	"(i) the advanced test reactor of the
23	Idaho National Laboratory;

1	"(ii) post-irradiation examination fa-
2	cilities at the Materials and Fuels Com-
3	plex;
4	"(iii) research reactors at—
5	"(I) Oak Ridge National Labora-
6	tory;
7	"(II) Massachusetts Institute of
8	Technology; and
9	"(III) North Carolina State Uni-
10	versity;
11	"(iv) beam line capabilities at the Ad-
12	vanced Photon Source, in coordination
13	with the Illinois Institute of Technology;
14	"(v) irradiation experiment design and
15	fabrication capabilities at Pacific North-
16	west National Laboratory;
17	"(vi) hot cells and fabrication capa-
18	bilities at Westinghouse Electric Company;
19	and
20	"(vii) examination facilities at—
21	"(I) the University of California—
22	Berkeley;
23	"(II) the University of Michigan;
24	"(III) the University of Nevada—
25	Las Vegas;

1	"(IV) Purdue University;
2	"(V) the University at Wisconsin;
3	and
4	"(VI) to the maximum extent
5	practicable, any other facilities needed
6	to support the Nuclear Science User
7	Facility.
8	"(6) Nuclear energy traineeships subpro-
9	GRAM.—
10	"(A) Establishment.—In carrying out
11	the program under this subsection, the Sec-
12	retary shall establish a nuclear energy
13	traineeships subprogram under which the Sec-
14	retary shall establish competitively awarded
15	traineeships and apprenticeships in industries
16	that are represented by skilled labor unions and
17	with institutions of higher education to provide
18	focused, graduate-level training to meet highly
19	focused needs through a tailored academic
20	graduate program that delivers a curriculum
21	with a rigorous thesis or dissertation research
22	requirement aligned with the critical needs of
23	the Department with respect to mission-driven
24	workforce.

1	"(B) Requirements.—In carrying out
2	the subprogram under this paragraph, the Sec-
3	retary shall—
4	"(i) encourage appropriate partner-
5	ships among National Laboratories, af-
6	fected institutions of higher education, and
7	industry; and
8	"(ii) on an annual basis, evaluate the
9	needs of the nuclear energy community to
10	implement traineeships for focused topical
11	areas addressing mission-specific workforce
12	needs.
13	"(7) Authorization of appropriations.—
14	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
16	section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
17	through 2029.
18	"(j) Radiological Facilities Management.—
19	"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall carry
20	out a program under which the Secretary shall pro-
21	vide project management, technical support, quality
22	engineering and inspection, and nuclear material
23	support to 25 research reactors located at 24 insti-
24	tutions of higher education.

1	"(2) Elements.—The program under this sub-
2	section shall include—
3	"(A) delivery of plate fuel elements as re-
4	quired annually by the recipient research reac-
5	tors, as determined based on—
6	"(i) need; and
7	"(ii) fuel availability;
8	"(B) delivery of Training, Research, Iso-
9	topes, General Atomics (commonly known as
10	'TRIGA') reactor fuel elements from recipient
11	institutions of higher education to used fuel re-
12	ceipt facilities of the Department; and
13	"(C) funding for required safety upgrades
14	to allow resumption of research reactor fuel
15	fabrication operations at TRIGA International
16	in Romans, France.
17	"(3) Authorization of appropriations.—
18	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
19	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
20	section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
21	through 2029.
22	"(k) International Nuclear Energy Coopera-
23	TION.—
24	"(1) In general.—The Secretary shall carry
25	out a program under which the Secretary shall de-

1	velop bilateral collaboration initiatives with a variety
2	of countries through—
3	"(A) research and development agree-
4	ments;
5	"(B) other relevant arrangements and ac-
6	tion plan updates; and
7	"(C) maintaining existing multilateral co-
8	operation commitments of—
9	"(i) the International Framework for
10	Nuclear Energy Cooperation; and
11	"(ii) the International Atomic Energy
12	Agency.
13	"(2) Treatment.—The program under this
14	subsection shall be considered to be the lead pro-
15	gram of the Department with respect to inter-
16	national activities relating to civil nuclear energy, in-
17	cluding—
18	"(A) analysis, development, coordination,
19	and implementation of international civil nu-
20	clear energy policy; and
21	"(B) integration of international nuclear
22	technical activities.
23	"(3) Subprogram.—In carrying out the pro-
24	gram under this subsection, the Secretary shall es-
25	tablish a subprogram that shall—

1	"(A) support diplomatic, nonproliferation,
2	climate, and international economic objectives
3	for the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear
4	technology in countries developing nuclear en-
5	ergy programs; and
6	"(B) shall be modeled after the Inter-
7	national Military Education and Training pro-
8	gram of the Department of State.
9	"(4) Requirements.—The program under this
10	subsection shall be carried out—
11	"(A) to facilitate, to the maximum extent
12	practicable, workshops and expert-based ex-
13	changes to engage industry, stakeholders, and
14	foreign governments regarding international
15	civil nuclear issues, such as training, financing,
16	safety, and options for multinational coopera-
17	tion on used nuclear fuel disposal; and
18	"(B) in coordination with—
19	"(i) the National Security Council;
20	"(ii) the Secretary of State;
21	"(iii) the Secretary of Commerce; and
22	"(iv) the Nuclear Regulatory Commis-
23	sion.
24	"(5) Authorization of appropriations.—
25	There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1	retary to carry out the program under this sub-
2	section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
3	through 2029, of which \$5,500,000 shall be used
4	each fiscal year to carry out the subprogram under
5	paragraph (3).".
6	(b) Cost Sharing.—Section 988(b)(2) of the En-
7	ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352(b)(2)) is
8	amended—
9	(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "Ex-
10	CLUSION" and inserting "EXCLUSIONS";
11	(2) by striking "apply to" and inserting the fol-
12	lowing: "apply—
13	"(A) to";
14	(3) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by
15	striking the period at the end and inserting "; or";
16	and
17	(4) by adding at the end the following:
18	"(B) to programs under subsections (e)
19	through (k) of section 952.".

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