

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5527

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance for projects relating to the modernization of the electric grid, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance for projects relating to the modernization of the electric grid, 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 “21st Century Power
5 Grid Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR GRID MODERNIZATION**
2 **PROJECTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall es-
4 tablish a program to provide financial assistance to eligible
5 partnerships to carry out projects related to the mod-
6 ernization of the electric grid, including—

7 (1) projects for the deployment of technologies
8 to improve monitoring of, advanced controls for, and
9 prediction of performance of, a distribution system;
10 and

11 (2) projects related to transmission system
12 planning and operation.

13 (b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Projects for which an eli-
14 gible partnership may receive financial assistance under
15 subsection (a)—

16 (1) shall be designed to improve the resiliency,
17 performance, or efficiency of the electric grid, while
18 ensuring the continued provision of safe, secure, reli-
19 able, and affordable power;

20 (2) may be designed to deploy a new product or
21 technology that could be used by customers of an
22 electric utility; and

23 (3) shall demonstrate—

24 (A) secure integration and management of
25 energy resources, including through distributed
26 energy generation, combined heat and power,

1 microgrids, energy storage, electric vehicles, en-
2 ergy efficiency, demand response, or control-
3 lable loads; or

4 (B) secure integration and interoperability
5 of communications and information technologies
6 related to the electric grid.

7 (c) CYBERSECURITY PLAN.—Each project carried
8 out with financial assistance provided under subsection (a)
9 shall include the development of a cybersecurity plan writ-
10 ten in accordance with guidelines developed by the Sec-
11 retary of Energy.

12 (d) PRIVACY EFFECTS ANALYSIS.—Each project car-
13 ried out with financial assistance provided under sub-
14 section (a) shall include a privacy effects analysis that
15 evaluates the project in accordance with the Voluntary
16 Code of Conduct of the Department of Energy, commonly
17 known as the “DataGuard Energy Data Privacy Pro-
18 gram”, or the most recent revisions to the privacy pro-
19 gram of the Department.

20 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-
22 ble partnership” means a partnership consisting of
23 two or more entities, which—

24 (A) may include—

25 (i) any institution of higher education;

- 1 (ii) a National Laboratory;
- 2 (iii) a State or a local government or
- 3 other public body created by or pursuant
- 4 to State law;
- 5 (iv) an Indian Tribe;
- 6 (v) a Federal power marketing admin-
- 7 istration; or
- 8 (vi) an entity that develops and pro-
- 9 vides technology; and
- 10 (B) shall include at least one of any of—
- 11 (i) an electric utility;
- 12 (ii) a Regional Transmission Organi-
- 13 zation; or
- 14 (iii) an Independent System Operator.

15 (2) ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “electric
16 utility” has the meaning given that term in section
17 3(22) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
18 796(22)), except that such term does not include an
19 entity described in subparagraph (B) of such sec-
20 tion.

21 (3) FEDERAL POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRA-
22 TION.—The term “Federal power marketing admin-
23 istration” means the Bonneville Power Administra-
24 tion, the Southeastern Power Administration, the

1 Southwestern Power Administration, or the Western
2 Area Power Administration.

3 (4) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR; RE-
4 GIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The terms
5 “Independent System Operator” and “Regional
6 Transmission Organization” have the meanings
7 given those terms in section 3 of the Federal Power
8 Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

9 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
10 term “institution of higher education” has the
11 meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the
12 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy
15 to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal
16 years 2021 through 2025, to remain available until ex-
17 pended.

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