

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3247

To establish a social and behavioral sciences research program at the
Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2009

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Science and Technology

A BILL

To establish a social and behavioral sciences research pro-
gram at the Department of Energy, and for other pur-
poses.

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. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RE-**
4 **SEARCH PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a so-
6 cial and behavioral sciences research program to identify
7 and understand social and behavioral factors that influ-
8 ence energy consumption and acceptance and adoption
9 rates of new energy technologies, and to promote the utili-
10 zation of the results of social and behavioral research to

1 improve the design, development, demonstration, and ap-
2 plication of energy technologies.

3 (b) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint or des-
4 ignate a Director of Social and Behavioral Research to
5 carry out the program established under this section.

6 (c) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director
7 shall—

8 (1) develop a research plan in accordance with
9 section 2;

10 (2) implement the research program under this
11 section;

12 (3) work with the relevant Department of En-
13 ergy program offices to integrate the results of social
14 and behavioral research into their work;

15 (4) develop tools, practices, and information to
16 apply and integrate the results of social and behav-
17 ioral research into programs that—

18 (A) design, develop, and demonstrate tech-
19 nologies that supply energy and improve energy
20 efficiency; and

21 (B) provide information on energy con-
22 sumption to consumers; and

23 (5) assist the Secretary in awarding research
24 grants under section 3.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with
3 the Advisory Committee established under section 4, shall
4 develop a research plan and, not later than 9 months after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, transmit such plan to
6 the Congress. Prior to finalizing the research plan, the Di-
7 rector shall publish a draft of the proposed research plan
8 in the Federal Register with a public comment period of
9 not less than 30 days.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF RESEARCH PLAN.—The research
11 plan shall—

12 (1) set forth priorities and a schedule for car-
13 rying out the research program under section 1 and
14 the research grant program under section 3;

15 (2) address social and behavioral factors that
16 influence—

17 (A) patterns of energy consumption by in-
18 dividuals, households, and businesses; and

19 (B) decisions to implement energy con-
20 servation measures,

21 including the factors that influence decisions to
22 adopt energy efficient technologies and practices;

23 (3) include a description of the mechanisms the
24 Department will use to integrate the findings of so-
25 cial and behavioral research into other relevant De-
26 partment programs; and

1 (4) include responses to comments received dur-
2 ing the public comment period.

3 (c) REVIEW AND REVISION.—The Director shall re-
4 view the research plan every 5 years and revise the plan
5 as appropriate.

6 **SEC. 3. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH GRANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
8 grants to support social and behavioral research consistent
9 with the research plan developed under section 2.

10 (b) AWARDS.—Grant awards under this section may
11 be for a period up to 3 years. The Secretary shall award
12 grants through a competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed
13 process.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
16 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010
17 through 2015.

18 **SEC. 4. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH ADVISORY**
19 **COMMITTEE.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
21 an Advisory Committee composed of experts in relevant
22 fields—

23 (1) to advise the Secretary and the Director on
24 priority areas for research;

1 (2) to assist the Director in the development of
2 the research plan under section 2; and

3 (3) to provide other assistance and advice as re-
4 quested by the Secretary or the Director.

5 (b) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section
6 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
7 App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee estab-
8 lished under subsection (a) until 3 years after the date
9 the Advisory Committee is established.

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