

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8129

To direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out an initiative to encourage States to enhance the dissemination of nuclear information at certain schools, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2024

Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. NEHLS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out an initiative to encourage States to enhance the dissemination of nuclear information at certain schools, 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 “American Nuclear  
5 Workforce Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NUCLEAR EDUCATION INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy  
8 shall establish and carry out an initiative to encourage

1 States to enhance the dissemination of nuclear science and  
2 technology information at covered schools.

3 (b) DEGREES.—In carrying out the initiative estab-  
4 lished under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall  
5 encourage States to work with institutions of higher edu-  
6 cation that are covered schools, to, as appropriate, incor-  
7 porate degrees that may be relevant in the nuclear energy  
8 industry, including degrees in environmental science, biol-  
9 ogy, chemistry, nuclear engineering, electrical engineering,  
10 mechanical engineering, civil engineering, systems engi-  
11 neering, radiochemistry, applied and engineering physics,  
12 materials science, and occupational safety and health.

13 (c) TOURS AND OUTREACH.—In carrying out the ini-  
14 tiative established under subsection (a), the Secretary of  
15 Energy shall encourage—

16 (1) covered schools to engage with local nuclear  
17 power plants to provide students with tours of such  
18 nuclear power plants to learn about nuclear energy  
19 firsthand; and

20 (2) relevant nuclear stakeholders to engage with  
21 covered schools about potential professional opportu-  
22 nities within the nuclear industry, including by pro-  
23 viding information regarding paid and unpaid in-  
24 ternships, scholarships, apprenticeships, fellowships,  
25 and other experiential opportunities.

1           (d) NUCLEAR ENERGY UNIVERSITY PROGRAM.—The  
2 Secretary of Energy shall, to the extent practicable, carry  
3 out the initiative established under subsection (a) in con-  
4 junction with the Nuclear Energy University Program of  
5 the Department of Energy.

6           (e) CONSIDERATION.—In establishing and carrying  
7 out the initiative under subsection (a), the Secretary of  
8 Energy shall take into consideration the Institute of Nu-  
9 clear Power Operations Uniform Curriculum Program  
10 Guide.

11          (f) MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative  
13 established under subsection (a), the Secretary of  
14 Energy shall establish and carry out a mentorship  
15 program to pair volunteers who are employed in the  
16 nuclear industry with students in covered schools,  
17 including for virtual teleconference mentorship op-  
18 portunities.

19           (2) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out the  
20 mentorship program established under paragraph  
21 (1), the Secretary of Energy shall establish proce-  
22 dures to appropriately pair students with volunteers,  
23 based on career interest, geographic location, or any  
24 other consideration the Secretary determines appro-  
25 priate.

1           (3) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out the  
2           mentorship program established under paragraph  
3           (1), the Secretary of Energy shall consider any on-  
4           going efforts to establish, or already established,  
5           mentorship programs or opportunities that may be  
6           relevant and could be utilized.

7           (g) RESEARCH AND TEST REACTORS.—In carrying  
8           out the initiative established under subsection (a), the Sec-  
9           retary of Energy shall encourage States to work with insti-  
10          tutions of higher education that have a research and test  
11          reactor on campus to continue to use the research and  
12          test reactor—

13                 (1) to assist in preparing students for careers  
14                 in the nuclear workforce, including careers at nu-  
15                 clear power plants and in the nuclear energy supply  
16                 chain; and

17                 (2) to help inform the general student body  
18                 about nuclear energy.

19          (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

20                 (1) COVERED SCHOOL.—The term “covered  
21                 school” means—

22                         (A) an institution of higher education or a  
23                         secondary school that is located within approxi-  
24                         mately 25 miles (or such distance as the Sec-  
25                         retary of Energy determines appropriate) of—

1 (i) a commercially operating nuclear  
2 power plant; or

3 (ii) the headquarters for a nuclear re-  
4 actor developer; or

5 (B) any other institution of higher edu-  
6 cation or secondary school that the Secretary of  
7 Energy determines appropriate.

8 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
9 term “institution of higher education” has the  
10 meaning given the term in section 101 or  
11 102(a)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
12 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)(B)).

13 (3) RESEARCH AND TEST REACTOR.—The term  
14 “research and test reactor” has the meaning given  
15 such term in section 3(11) of the Nuclear Energy  
16 Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215  
17 note).

18 (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
19 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in  
20 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
21 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

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