

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2688

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

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

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, 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 “Technology Transi-
5 tions Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS.**

7 Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
8 U.S.C. 16391) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and all that fol-
2 lows through “The Coordinator” in subsection (b)
3 and inserting the following:

4 “(a) OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS.—

5 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
6 within the Department an Office of Technology
7 Transitions (referred to in this section as the ‘Of-
8 fice’).

9 “(2) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall
10 be—

11 “(A) to expand the commercial impact of
12 the research investments of the Department;
13 and

14 “(B) to focus on commercializing tech-
15 nologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
16 and technologies that support other missions of
17 the Department.

18 “(3) GOALS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
20 mission and activities of the Office, the Chief
21 Commercialization Officer appointed under
22 paragraph (4) shall, with respect to commer-
23 cialization activities, meet not less than two of
24 the goals described in subparagraph (B) and, to

1 the maximum extent practicable, meet all of the
2 goals described in that subparagraph.

3 “(B) GOALS DESCRIBED.—The goals re-
4 ferred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

5 “(i) Reduction of greenhouse gas
6 emissions.

7 “(ii) Ensuring economic competitive-
8 ness.

9 “(iii) Enhancement of domestic en-
10 ergy security and national security.

11 “(iv) Enhancement of domestic jobs.

12 “(4) CHIEF COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICER.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be
14 headed by an officer, who shall be known as the
15 ‘Chief Commercialization Officer’, and who
16 shall report directly to, and be appointed by,
17 the Secretary.

18 “(B) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR.—The Chief
19 Commercialization Officer shall be the principal
20 advisor to the Secretary on all matters relating
21 to technology transfer and commercialization.

22 “(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Com-
23 mercialization Officer”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
2 section (d)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
4 through (4) as clauses (i) through (iv), respec-
5 tively, and indenting appropriately; and

6 (C) by striking the subsection designation
7 and heading and all that follows through “The
8 Coordinator” in the matter preceding clause (i)
9 (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

10 “(D) DUTIES.—The Chief Commercializa-
11 tion Officer”;

12 (3) by adding at the end of subsection (a) (as
13 amended by paragraph (2)(C)) the following:

14 “(5) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the mis-
15 sion and activities of the Office, the Chief Commer-
16 cialization Officer shall coordinate with the senior
17 leadership of the Department, other relevant offices
18 of the Department, National Laboratories, the Tech-
19 nology Transfer Working Group established under
20 subsection (b), the Technology Transfer Policy
21 Board, and other stakeholders (including private in-
22 dustry).”;

23 (4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)
24 as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

1 (5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by
2 striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection
3 (e)”.

4 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY**
5 **PROGRAMS.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall conduct a review
8 of all emission reduction research and development pro-
9 grams under the Department of Energy—

10 (1) to identify each program the mission of
11 which is to develop technologies that reduce emis-
12 sions;

13 (2) to examine the extent to which the pro-
14 grams identified under paragraph (1) overlap or are
15 duplicative;

16 (3) to identify the technologies available to re-
17 duce emissions that are not covered by any of the
18 programs identified under paragraph (1); and

19 (4) to develop recommendations as to how over-
20 lapping or duplicative programs under paragraph (2)
21 may be combined or restructured to be more effi-
22 cient.

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