

HR 2773

Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Jun 19, 2007

**Current Status:** Hearings Held by Subcommittee on Energy and Environment Prior to Introduction and Referral (June 14

**Latest Action:** Hearings Held by Subcommittee on Energy and Environment Prior to Introduction and Referral (June 14, 2007). (May 6, 2008)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/2773>

Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Lampson, Nick [D-TX-22]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

| Committee                                | Chamber | Activity                   | Date        |
|--|---------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Science, Space, and Technology Committee | House   | Hearings By (subcommittee) | May 6, 2008 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Energy

Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship | Last Action  |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 110 HR 3221 | Related bill | <b>Jul 30, 2008:</b> Became Public Law No: 110-289.                          |
| 110 HR 2763 | Related bill | <b>Jun 20, 2007:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. |

Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act - (Sec. 2) Directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a technology transfer center to disseminate information on research, development, and commercial application of technologies related to specified biofuels and biorefineries, including: (1) biochemical and thermochemical conversion technologies to make fuels from lignocellulosic feedstocks; (2) biotechnology processes that emphasize enzyme-based processing systems; (3) biogas technologies; and (4) other advances to enable biofuel development.

(Sec. 3) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to instruct the Secretary to implement a biofuels research, development, and demonstration program related to existing transportation fuel distribution infrastructure and new alternative distribution infrastructure, focusing on the physical and chemical properties of biofuels and prevention of or mitigation against certain adverse impacts.

(Sec. 4) Requires the Secretary to report to Congress on challenges inherent in increasing to 2.5% the biodiesel proportion of diesel fuel sold in the United States.

Requires the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to make publicly available the physical property data and characterization of biodiesel, in order to encourage standards that will promote their utilization in the transportation and fuel delivery system.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary to report to Congress on challenges inherent in increasing to 5% of the transportation fuels sold in the United States fuel with biogas or a blend of biogas and natural gas.

(Sec. 6) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary to establish five bioresearch centers, focusing on biofuels, one in each of the five Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts.

(Sec. 7) Directs the Secretary to make grants for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of biofuel production technologies in states with low rates of ethanol production, including cellulosic biomass ethanol production.

(Sec. 8) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary to establish: (1) a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption in biorefinery facilities; and (2) a similar program for technologies and processes that enable the retrofitting of biorefineries that exclusively use corn grain or corn starch as a feedstock so that they can accept a range of biomass, including lignocellulosic feedstocks.

(Sec. 9) Requires the Secretary to study and report to Congress on: (1) methods of increasing U.S. consumption of ethanol-blended gasoline with levels of ethanol between 10% and 40%; (2) whether optimizing flexible fueled vehicles to use E-85 fuel would increase their fuel efficiency; and (3) the effects of biodiesel upon engine and engine system performance and durability.

(Sec. 12) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to authorize appropriations for bioenergy renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities for FY2010, and increase existing appropriations for FY2007-FY2009.

(Sec. 13) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to instruct the Secretary to include environmental science in the research, development, and demonstration program for systems biology.

Modifies the program goals of developing technologies and methods based on the biological functions of genomes, microbes, and plants that can perform specified functions. Revises the goal regarding the function of producing hydrogen to specify hydrogen in sustainable production systems that reduce greenhouse emissions. Adds a goal for the function of developing cellulosic and other feedstocks that are less resource and land intensive and that promote sustainable use of resources, including soil, water, energy, forests, and land, and ensure protection of air, water, and soil quality.

Requires the Secretary to establish a research and development program to: (1) improve and develop analytical tools to facilitate the analysis of life-cycle energy and greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions related to direct and indirect land use changes, attributable to all potential biofuel feedstocks and production processes; (2) promote the systematic evaluation of the impact of expanded biofuel production on the environment, including forestlands, and on the food supply for humans and animals; and (3) facilitate small-scale production, local, and on-farm use of biofuels, including the development of small-scale gasification technologies for production of biofuel from cellulosic feedstocks.

(Sec. 14) Directs the Secretary to study and report to Congress on increasing the fuel efficiency of vehicles using biogas by optimizing natural gas vehicle systems that can operate on it, including the advancement of vehicle fuel systems and the combination of hybrid-electric and plug-in hybrid electric drive platforms with natural gas vehicle systems using biogas.

Sec. 15) Directs the Secretary to: (1) develop standards for biofuel dispenser systems in order to promote broader biofuels adoption and utilization; and (2) report to Congress on research and development regarding the use of algae as a feedstock for biofuels production.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 6, 2008:** Hearings Held by Subcommittee on Energy and Environment Prior to Introduction and Referral (June 14, 2007).
- **Aug 3, 2007:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science and Technology. H. Rept. 110-302.
- **Aug 3, 2007:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 189.
- **Jun 27, 2007:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 27, 2007:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended).
- **Jun 21, 2007:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 21, 2007:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Jun 20, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
- **Jun 19, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 19, 2007:** Referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology.