

S 583

Building a Stronger America Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 12, 2009

Current Status: Star Print ordered on the reported bill.

Latest Action: Star Print ordered on the reported bill. (Dec 22, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/583>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]

Party: Democratic • **State:** AR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 12, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 12, 2009
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Mar 12, 2009
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 12, 2009
Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		Sep 25, 2009
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 22, 2009
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 18, 2009
Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]	R · NE		Dec 10, 2009
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Dec 10, 2009
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Dec 14, 2009
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Dec 15, 2009
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Dec 21, 2009
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jun 21, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 17, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 4413	Related bill	Jan 22, 2010: Referred to the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation.

Building a Stronger America Act - Amends the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to direct the Secretary of Commerce to award grants for the development of feasibility studies and plans for the construction of new or expansion (including renovation and modernization) of existing science parks.

Defines a "science park" to mean a centralized or regionally distributed group of interrelated companies and institutions that foster knowledge flow and contribute to regional economic growth, cooperate and compete with each other through physical connectivity or networked virtual parks, and are located in a specific area or region that promotes real estate development or knowledge-based enterprises, technology transfer, and partnerships.

Limits the amount of a grant to \$750,000.

Requires: (1) grants to be advertised in the Commerce Business Daily; (2) grants to be awarded pursuant to a full and open competition; and (3) competition criteria to include requirements relating to the use of energy efficient building technology, the consideration of the transformation of military bases affected by the base realignment and closure process (BRAC) or the redevelopment of existing structures or brownfield sites that are abandoned, and the ability to collaborate with other science parks throughout the world.

Encourages dividing grants among low-, medium-, and high-population density states.

Authorizes appropriations for FY2011-FY2015.

Allows the Secretary to guarantee up to 80% of the loan amount for projects for the construction or expansion (including renovation and modernization) of science park infrastructure.

Limits the maximum amount of loan principal guaranteed to: (1) \$50 million for any single project; and (2) \$500 million for all projects.

Requires the Secretary to select loan guarantee recipients based upon their ability to collateralize the loan. Bars entities that receive a grant under this Act from being eligible for a loan guarantee during the period of their grant.

Sets forth provisions concerning: (1) loan guarantee terms and conditions; and (2) a borrower's default.

Requires the Comptroller General to review the subsidy estimates for the loan guarantees and to report to Congress.

Prohibits guaranteeing a loan after September 30, 2015.

Authorizes appropriations for guaranteeing loans and for administrative expenses.

Directs the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) under which the Board shall evaluate activities under this Act, recommend best practices for the development of science parks, and report on such evaluation and recommendations.

Requires the Secretary to submit specified tri-annual reports to Congress.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 22, 2010:** Star Print ordered on the reported bill.
- **Dec 17, 2010:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 17, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 706.
- **Dec 17, 2009:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Mar 12, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 12, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.