HR 2396

Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Environmental Protection
Introduced: Jun 24, 2011
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. (Jun 29, 2011)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/2396

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]
Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Clarke, Hansen [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Wu, David [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-21]	D · NY		Nov 4, 2011
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Dec 8, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 29, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 24, 2011)

Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act - Requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award multiyear grants to consortia: (1) to conduct research to create innovative and practical approaches to manage the environmental impacts of electronic devices through recycling, reuse, reduction of the use of hazardous materials, and life-cycle extension; and (2) through such research, to contribute to the professional development of scientists, engineers, and technicians in the fields of electronic device manufacturing, design, refurbishing, and recycling.

Provides for the protection of proprietary information of trade secrets provided by any person or entity pursuant to this Act.

Requires the Administrator to enter into an arrangement for the National Academy of Sciences to report to Congress on: (1) opportunities for, and barriers to, increasing the recyclability of electronic devices and making electronic devises safer and more environmentally friendly; (2) the risks posed by the storage, transport, recycling, and disposal of unwanted electronic devices; (3) the current status of research and training programs to promote the environmental design of electronic devices to increase the recyclability of such devices; and (4) regulatory or statutory barriers that may prevent the adoption or implementation of best management practices or technological innovations that may arise from the research and training programs established in this Act. Requires such reports to: (1) identify gaps in the current research and training programs in addressing the opportunities, barriers, and risks relating to electronic device recycling; and (2) recommend areas where additional research and development resources are needed to reduce the impact of unwanted electronic devices on the environment.

Requires the Administrator to award grants to institutions of higher education to develop curricula that incorporates the principles of environmental design into the development of electronic devices: (1) for the training of engineers and other students; and (2) to support the continuing education of professionals in the electronic device manufacturing, design, refurbishing, or recycling industries. Requires: (1) the Administrator to conduct outreach to minority serving institutions to provide information about the grants, and (2) such grants to be used for activities that enhance the ability of an institution to broaden the engineering or professional continuing education curriculum to include environmental engineering design principles and consideration of product lifecycles related to electronic devices and increasing the recyclability of such devices.

Requires the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to: (1) establish an initiative to develop a comprehensive physical property database for environmentally friendly alternative materials for use in electronic devices, and (2) develop a strategic plan to establish priorities and physical property characterization requirements for the database.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 29, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
- **Jun 24, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 24, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1206-1207)
- **Jun 24, 2011:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.