

S 1237

Omnibus Territories Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jun 27, 2013

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power. (Dec 19, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1237>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

Party: Democratic • State: OR • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 27, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 4, 2014
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 19, 2014
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Reported By	Apr 8, 2014
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 4, 2014
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 4, 2014
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 4, 2014
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 4, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 4296	Related bill	Dec 22, 2014: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 529.
113 HR 83	Related bill	Dec 16, 2014: Became Public Law No: 113-235.
113 S 256	Related bill	Sep 18, 2013: Became Public Law No: 113-34.
113 HR 2200	Related bill	Jul 8, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
113 HR 85	Related bill	Jun 17, 2013: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 78.
113 HR 573	Related bill	May 16, 2013: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
113 HR 44	Related bill	Jan 31, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.
113 HR 89	Related bill	Jan 31, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation.

Omnibus Territories Act of 2013 - (Sec. 3) Extends through December 31, 2019, a system for allocating and determining the number, terms, and conditions of permits issued to prospective employers for nonimmigrant workers performing work during the transition period (the period for administration of a transition program to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI]) who would not otherwise be eligible for admission under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Revises the treatment of supplemental fees imposed for employment of nonimmigrant workers paid into the Treasury of the CNMI government for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by CNMI educational entities to: (1) require such government to provide to the Secretary of Labor a plan for the expenditure of funds, a projection of the effectiveness of the expenditures in job placement of U.S. workers, and a report on changes in employment of U.S. workers attributable to prior year expenditures; and (2) require a biennial report by the Secretary on the effectiveness of meeting the goals set out in the CNMI's annual plan for the expenditure of funds.

(Sec. 4) Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas (American Samoa, the CNMI, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands) and Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) and assist those jurisdictions in implementing such plan. Requires such plan to include: (1) recommendations to reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States, develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources, and improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency; (2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects; (3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and (4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

Prohibits such energy action plan from being implemented until approved by the Secretary. Requires: (1) the team to report to the Secretary annually on progress made in implementing the plan, and (2) the Secretary to submit to appropriate congressional committees a summary of the team's reports.

(Sec. 5) Requires the Comptroller General (GAO) to report to appropriate congressional committees an evaluation of whether the annual estimates or forecasts of revenue and expenditure of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are reasonable and make recommendations for improving the process for developing estimates or forecasts.

(Sec. 6) Makes households located in the Virgin Islands with household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level eligible for assistance under the low-income home energy assistance program.

(Sec. 7) Amends the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, with respect to housing assistance for the benefit of an alien lawfully residing in the United States, to provide that within Guam, a citizen or national of the United States shall be entitled to a preference or priority in receiving financial assistance before any such alien who is otherwise eligible for such assistance.

(Sec. 8) Requires the Comptroller General to study, and report on, the use of benefit-to-cost ratio formulas by federal agencies for purposes of evaluating projects in American Samoa and to assess, in particular, Samoa's remote locations, transportation costs, airport traffic control towers, and water resources development projects.

(Sec. 9) Exempts vessels from the fishery endorsement requirement that they be rebuilt in the United States if they

offload their catch in American Samoa and were rebuilt outside of the United States before January 1, 2011.

(Sec. 10) Amends the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to require GAO to include in reports assessing the impact of minimum wage increases applicable to American Samoa and the CNMI an analysis of the economic effects on employees and employers of the differentials in minimum wage rates among industries and classifications in American Samoa, including the potential effects of eliminating such differentials prior to the time when such rates are scheduled to equal the minimum wage set forth in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

(Sec. 11) Requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop and make available to the public a biennial Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy, with emphasis on the borders of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, on terms substantially equivalent to the existing Southwest Border and Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategies.

(Sec. 12) Amends the REAL ID Act of 2005 to provide that citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau who have been admitted as nonimmigrants pursuant to a Compacts of Free Association are eligible for driver's licenses or personal identification cards.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 19, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.
- **Dec 3, 2014:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jun 19, 2014:** Received in the House.
- **Jun 19, 2014:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 19, 2014:** Held at the desk.
- **Jun 18, 2014:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S3821-3823; text of measure as reported in Senate: CR S3821-3822)
- **Jun 18, 2014:** The committee substitute as amended agreed to by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 18, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S3822-3823)
- **Jun 18, 2014:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S3822-3823)
- **Apr 8, 2014:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Landrieu with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 113-146.
- **Apr 8, 2014:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 352.
- **Dec 19, 2013:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 11, 2013:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-177.
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.