

## S 1155

Geothermal Exploration and Technology Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Apr 30, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Apr 30, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1155>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 30, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Energy

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1057	Related bill	<b>May 19, 2015:</b> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-118.

## **Geothermal Exploration and Technology Act of 2015**

This bill requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a direct loan program for high risk geothermal exploration wells, and gives preference to loans to carry out projects that are likely to lead to successful new geothermal development leading to electricity production. Data from exploratory wells must be provided to DOE and the Department of the Interior for use in mapping national geothermal resources and other uses. DOE must determine the number of wells for each selected geothermal project for which a loan may be made.

The Geothermal Investment Fund is established to carry out the program. Amounts repaid on loans must be deposited in the Fund.

The bill amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to require DOE to establish a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy. In carrying out the program, DOE must identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts. DOE must make grants to promote the development of geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy, giving priority to proposals that apply to large buildings, commercial districts, and residential communities.

The bill amends the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to allow the holder of an oil and gas lease of public land to also lease the land for the production of geothermal energy if: (1) the holder of the oil and gas lease has an approved drilling permit, (2) the geothermal energy will be produced from a well producing or capable of producing oil and gas, (3) the geothermal lease would serve the public interest, and (4) oil and gas production is currently occurring under the existing lease.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 30, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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