

HR 1158

Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Feb 27, 2015

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (May 20, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1158>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14]

Party: Republican • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Gibson, Christopher P. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		May 18, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 20, 2015
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Reported By	May 19, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1187	Related bill	Jun 9, 2015: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-344.
114 S 1363	Related bill	Jun 9, 2015: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-344.
114 HR 1806	Related bill	May 21, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015

TITLE I--INNOVATION MANAGEMENT AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(Sec. 101) Directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to: (1) report annually on its ability to improve the technology transfer and commercialization of energy technologies, including an assessment of the role and effectiveness of the Director of the Office of Technology Transitions; and (2) recommend changes to improve the ability to successfully transfer new energy technologies to the private sector.

(Sec. 102) Expresses the sense of Congress that DOE should encourage the nonmilitary national laboratories (national laboratories) and federally funded research and development centers to inform small businesses of the opportunities and resources that exist pursuant to this Act.

(Sec. 103) Requires DOE to report on its capabilities to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion and non-light water reactor prototypes and related demonstration facilities at DOE-owned sites. Instructs DOE, for purposes of such report, to consider DOE's capabilities to facilitate privately-funded prototypes of up to 20 megawatts thermal output.

TITLE II--CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT COMPETITIVENESS

(Sec. 201) Directs DOE to carry out the Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program in accordance with this Act, including by giving the contractors of the DOE nonmilitary national laboratories increased authority to negotiate contract terms and making every such facility eligible for the program.

Permits the directors of the national laboratories to execute agreements with non-federal entities, provided that such funding is only used to carry out the purposes of the federal award. Subjects agreements that are funding agreements to the requirements of the Bayh-Dole Act (concerning patent rights to inventions arising from federally-supported research and development).

Imposes contractor certification requirements for the avoidance of direct competition with the private sector and conflicts of interest.

Extends the pilot program until October 31, 2017.

Requires DOE to report to Congress on the overall effectiveness of the pilot program and to annually account for, and justify, incidences of use by non-federal entities of funds derived from a federal contract or award to carry out agreements pursuant to the pilot program.

(Sec. 202) Requires DOE to delegate to the directors of the national laboratories signature authority with respect to certain agreements the total cost of which is less than \$1 million, if such an agreement falls within the scope of: (1) a strategic plan for the national laboratory that has been approved by DOE; or (2) the most recent congressionally approved budget for DOE activities to be carried out by that laboratory.

Makes this section inapplicable to any agreement with a majority foreign-owned company.

(Sec. 203) Permits the directors of national laboratories to use funds authorized to support technology transfer within DOE to carry out early-stage and pre-commercial technology demonstration activities to: (1) remove technology barriers

that limit private sector interest, and (2) demonstrate potential commercial applications of any research and technologies arising from national laboratory activities.

(Sec. 204) Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to exempt institutions of higher education and nonprofit institutions from the cost-sharing requirements for research and development for six years.

(Sec. 205) Authorizes DOE to enter into an agreement with the National Science Foundation to enable the participation of DOE researchers in the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program.

TITLE III--ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

(Sec. 301) Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on the results of projects developed under this Act and on the impact of DOE efforts to promote technology transfer and private sector engagement at the national laboratories.

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- **May 19, 2015:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H. Rept. 114-124.
- **May 19, 2015:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 89.
- **May 19, 2015:** Mr. Smith (TX) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **May 19, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H3373-3377)
- **May 19, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1158.
- **May 19, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H3373-3374)
- **May 19, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H3373-3374)
- **May 19, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.