

S 259

A bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Jan 27, 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. (Jan 27, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/259>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]

Party: Republican • **State:** ND • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 27, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 5, 2015
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 10, 2015
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Mar 3, 2015
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 26, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 27, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 720	Related bill	Sep 9, 2015: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 210.
114 HR 2177	Related bill	Aug 18, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
114 HR 906	Related bill	Jun 9, 2015: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 102.
114 S 535	Related bill	Apr 30, 2015: Became Public Law No: 114-11.
114 HR 1802	Related bill	Apr 17, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.
114 S 1	Related bill	Mar 4, 2015: Message on Senate action sent to the House.

Amends the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) to provide additional energy conservation standards applicable to grid-enabled water heaters for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program (a program that enables customers to reduce or shift their power use during peak demand periods).

Requires annual reports from: (1) manufacturers of such water heaters regarding the quantity of the products shipped each year, and (2) utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators regarding the quantity of products activated for their programs.

Requires the Secretary of Energy to publish analyses of data collected from such reports and to establish procedures to prevent product diversion if sales of the products exceed by at least 15% the quantity activated for use in the demand response and thermal storage programs annually.

Maintains the standards and publication procedures established by this Act until the Secretary determines that: (1) such water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement, or (2) procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes would not be adequate to prevent such product diversion.

Requires the Secretary to consider the impact of EPCA electric water heater standards on thermal storage and demand response programs, including on energy savings, electric bills, peak load reduction, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

Directs the Secretary to require the water heaters be equipped with communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.

Makes it unlawful for any person to:

- activate an activation lock for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that it is not used as part of such program,
- distribute an activation key for such a water heater with knowledge that it will be used to activate a heater that is not used as part of the program,
- enable such water heater to operate at its designed specification and capabilities with knowledge that it is not used as part of the program, or
- knowingly remove or render illegible the label of a such water heater.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 27, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 27, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.