

## S 2795

### Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Apr 13, 2016

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 528.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 528. (Jun 23, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2795>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]

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

### Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 13, 2016
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Apr 13, 2016
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 13, 2016
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Apr 25, 2016
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		May 12, 2016
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 16, 2016
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jun 23, 2016
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 29, 2016
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 6, 2016
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jul 11, 2016
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Sep 27, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Apr 21, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Energy

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act**

(Sec. 3) This bill provides for: (1) a program to develop the expertise and regulatory processes necessary to allow innovation and the commercialization of advanced nuclear reactors, and (2) a revised fee recovery structure to ensure the availability of resources to meet industry needs without burdening existing licensees unfairly for inaccurate workload projections or premature existing reactor closures.

(Sec. 4) Definitions are provided for terms used in this bill, including "advanced nuclear reactor."

(Sec. 5) The bill amends the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 to remove amounts appropriated for the Advanced Reactor Program from the NRC's fee recovery requirement.

(Sec. 6) The NRC must ensure that it has adequate funding to conduct and accelerate the licensing of advanced nuclear reactor facilities.

The bill directs the NRC to ensure the collection of fees is equal to their budget authority. The NRC is authorized to collect fees through: (1) fees for services that specifically benefit a particular person or entity, and (2) annual fees to fund regulatory costs. The bill places a cap on the amount of annual fee that may be charged to an operating reactor. The NRC may waive the cap for one-year.

Performance metrics and milestone schedules must be developed for activities requested by applicants and licensees to improve transparency and accountability. In addition, the NRC must implement processes to ensure accurate invoicing.

(Sec. 7) The NRC must establish stages within the licensing process for reactors and implement risk-informed performance-based licensing evaluation techniques and guidance. Research and test reactor licensing must also be developed. In addition, the NRC must complete a rulemaking by the end of 2023 to establish a technology-inclusive regulatory framework for licensing advanced nuclear reactors.

The NRC is also directed to train staff and develop the expertise required to implement stages within the licensing process.

The NRC must report to Congress on: (1) the implementation of stages in the licensing process, and (2) the use of risk-informed and performance-based techniques within the existing regulatory framework.

(Sec. 8) The Department of Energy shall establish a program to make cost-share grants to applicants for the purpose of funding a portion of the NRC pre-application and application review fees.

(Sec. 9) The NRC must report to Congress within one year regarding the safety and feasibility of extending the duration of uranium recovery licenses from 10 to 20 years.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 23, 2016:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported by Senator Inhofe with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 114-285. Additional views filed.
- **Jun 23, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 528.
- **May 18, 2016:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 21, 2016:** Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 114-298.
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.