

S 543

EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Feb 24, 2015

Current Status: Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulator

Latest Action: Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 114-38. (May 20, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/543>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 24, 2015
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 24, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	May 20, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1029	Identical bill	Mar 18, 2015: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015

This bill amends the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to revise the process of selecting members of the Science Advisory Board, guidelines for participation in Board advisory activities, and terms of office. The Board provides scientific advice to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This bill requires the Board to independently provide that advice. Federally registered lobbyists may not be appointed to the Board.

The EPA must provide draft risk or hazard assessments in its regulatory proposals and documents to the Board. The Board's advice and comments must be included in the record regarding any such proposal and published in the Federal Register.

The Board's member committees and investigative panels must operate in accordance with the membership, participation, and policy requirements contained in this Act, including new requirements for public participation in advisory activities of the Board. The member committees and investigative panels do not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board and may not report directly to the EPA.

The Board must: (1) strive to avoid making policy determinations or recommendations, (2) communicate uncertainties, (3) encourage dissenting members to make their views known, (4) conduct periodic reviews to ensure that its activities address the most important scientific issues affecting the EPA, and (5) respond to Congress fully and in a timely manner.

This Act may not be construed as supplanting the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act or the Ethics in Government Act of 1978.

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2015:** Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 114-38.
- **Feb 24, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 24, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.