

## S 512

### Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Mar 2, 2017

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 115-439.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 115-439. (Jan 14, 2019)

**Law:** 115-439 (Enacted Jan 14, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/512>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]

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

### Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 2, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 6, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 13, 2017
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 23, 2017
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 30, 2017
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Apr 24, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Apr 26, 2017
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 17, 2017
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Aug 1, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 25, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Energy

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

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

This bill revises the budget and fee structure of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and requires the NRC to develop new processes for licensing nuclear reactors, including staged licensing of advanced nuclear reactors.

### **TITLE I--ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS AND USER FEES**

(Sec. 101) The bill amends the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 to remove amounts appropriated for the development of regulations for advanced nuclear reactor technologies from the amount the NRC must recover through fees.

(Sec. 102) Effective FY2021, the bill:

- excludes additional amounts from the amount the NRC must recover through fees, including amounts for research and development at universities;
- directs the NRC to collect fees equal to its budget authority, less excluded amounts;
- limits NRC's spending on corporate support costs; and
- places a cap on the amount of the annual fee that may be charged to an operating reactor, which the NRC may waive if the cap compromises the NRC's safety and security mission.

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

(Sec. 103) For commercial advanced nuclear reactors, the NRC must (1) establish stages within the licensing process; (2) increase the use of risk-informed, performance-based licensing evaluation techniques and guidance; and (3) establish by the end of 2027 a technology-inclusive regulatory framework that encourages greater technological innovation.

The NRC must develop research and test reactor licensing.

The NRC is also directed to train staff and develop the expertise required to implement the new licensing processes.

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

(Sec. 104) The NRC must publish any necessary revisions to the guidance on the examination schedule for baffle-former bolts in certain reactors.

(Sec. 105) The NRC must submit to Congress a report describing the actions it has taken, or plans to take, to consider lessons learned from recent disasters regarding directed or spontaneous evacuations in densely populated urban and suburban areas.

(Sec. 106) The bill increases the percentage of operating costs that research reactors are allowed to recover from 50% to 75%, with up to 50% coming from energy sales.

(Sec. 107) The NRC must submit to Congress a report describing the status of the licensing process for accident tolerant fuel. (Accident tolerant fuel is a new technology that makes an existing commercial nuclear reactor more resistant to a nuclear incident and lowers the cost of electricity over the licensed lifetime of a reactor.)

(Sec. 108) The NRC must submit to Congress a report on the best practices for establishing and operating local community advisory boards.

(Sec. 109) The NRC must submit to Congress a report on actions it is taking to address the appearance of workplace reprisals.

## TITLE II--URANIUM

(Sec. 201) The NRC must (1) report to Congress on the duration of uranium recovery licenses and recommendations to improve the efficiency and transparency of uranium recovery licensing, and (2) complete a voluntary pilot program to determine the feasibility of establishing a flat fee structure for routine licensing matters relating to uranium recovery.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 14, 2019:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 14, 2019:** Became Public Law No: 115-439.
- **Jan 2, 2019:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Mr. Kinzinger moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10553-10558)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 512.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H10577-10578)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 361 - 10 (Roll no. 493).(text: CR H10553-10557)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 361 - 10 (Roll no. 493). (text: CR H10553-10557)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.(consideration: CR S7957-7962; text: CR S7962)
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S7957-7962; text: CR S7962)
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 20, 2018:** Held at the desk.
- **May 25, 2017:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported by Senator Barrasso with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 115-86. Additional views filed.
- **May 25, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 108.
- **May 25, 2017:** An errata sheet on written report number No. 115-86 was printed.
- **Mar 22, 2017:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 8, 2017:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-52.
- **Mar 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.