S 1246

Pacific Northwest Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Water Resources Development
Introduced: Apr 20, 2021
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. (Apr 20, 2021)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1246

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]
Party: Democratic • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 20, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Water Resources Development

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2641	Identical bill	**Dec 15, 2022:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 463.
117 S 2377	Related bill	**Jul 19, 2021:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 104.

Summary (as of Apr 20, 2021)

Pacific Northwest Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act of 2021

This bill provides the Department of the Interior exclusive authority to develop hydropower facilities in certain instances and contains other related provisions.

Specifically, Interior shall have exclusive authority to develop small conduit hydropower using Bureau of Reclamation facilities and pumped storage hydropower that exclusively use bureau reservoirs. Currently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) also has regulatory authority over some of the bureau infrastructure involved in such projects, so some projects require approval from both Interior and FERC.

The bill also imposes various requirements related to certain proposed projects involving specified tribes in Washington State. Before Interior may issue a lease to use power generated from such a project, the parties involved must agree to a study plan that lays out certain information, time lines, and procedures for addressing issues. Such a lease must also meet certain requirements, such as conditions to ensure that the project will not interfere with the tribes' hunting and fishing rights.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 20, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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