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Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Feb 15, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 124.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 124. (Jul 11, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/452>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]

Party: Independent • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 15, 2023
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Feb 15, 2023
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 6, 2023
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 16, 2023
Sen. Budd, Ted [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 11, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 11, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 2670	Related bill	Dec 22, 2023: Became Public Law No: 118-31.
118 HR 5718	Related bill	Dec 5, 2023: Ordered to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 48 - 0.
118 S 2226	Related bill	Jul 27, 2023: Senate ordered measure printed as passed.
118 HR 1086	Related bill	Feb 24, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate and Grid Security.

Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023

This bill establishes new programs and expands existing programs to increase domestic supplies of certain types of low-enriched uranium (LEU) for nuclear energy and establishes related requirements.

Specifically, the Department of Energy (DOE) must establish a program to increase the production of certain types of LEU, including high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) used by advanced reactors, by U.S. nuclear energy companies.

DOE must also establish a demonstration program to make HALEU available from its inventories or stockpiles and allied countries to meet the needs and schedules of advanced nuclear reactor developers until such time that commercial enrichment and deconversion capability for the uranium exists in the United States at a scale sufficient to meet future needs.

In addition, DOE must expand the existing American Assured Fuel Supply Program to ensure the availability of uranium, including HALEU, from domestic sources or allies in the event of a supply disruption. Under the expansion, DOE must merge its Uranium Reserve Program with the American Assured Fuel Supply Program. Under the expanded program, DOE must utilize only uranium produced, converted, enriched, deconverted, and reduced in the United States or an allied country. DOE must also maintain a limited reserve of uranium.

The bill also expands DOE's Advanced Nuclear Technologies Federal Research, Development, and Demonstration Program established under the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 to include financial assistance for the deployment of advanced nuclear reactors and associated supply chain infrastructure.

It also revises and reauthorizes through FY2027 DOE's nuclear traineeship subprogram.

Finally, the bill modifies the USEC Privatization Act to (1) limit the amount of LEU that may be imported into the United States through 2027, and (2) prohibit the importation of unirradiated LEU (i.e., uranium that has not been in a reactor) that is produced in Russia or by a Russian entity. It also prohibits importing LEU obtained in a manner designed to circumvent such prohibition. DOE may waive such prohibitions if it is in the national interest or there is no alternative viable source of LEU available to sustain the continued operation of a nuclear reactor or a U.S. nuclear energy company. Any waiver issued must terminate by January 1, 2028. The modifications to such act do not apply to imports for national security or nonproliferation purposes, or of non-uranium isotopes. The modifications no longer apply after December 31, 2040.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 11, 2023:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Manchin with an amendment. With written report No. 118-52.
- **Jul 11, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 124.
- **May 17, 2023:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Feb 15, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 15, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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