



National Nuclear University Research Infrastructure Reinvestment

Title VI: Misc. Science & Technology Provisions
Division B: Research & Innovation
America COMPETES Act of 2022

Rep. Gonzalez (R-OH) introduced this bill on July 29th. Original co-sponsors include Reps. Casten (D-IL), Meijer (R-MI), and Foster (D-IL). Chairwoman Johnson is also a co-sponsor of the bill.

The National Nuclear University Research Infrastructure Reinvestment Act of 2021 improves Department of Energy's nuclear energy university programs by ensuring adequate support for upgrades and revitalization of existing nuclear science and engineering infrastructure. This bill builds off of language and activities authorized in the Energy Act of 2020. The bill authorizes \$55 million annually for five years for these activities.

This bill also directs the Secretary of Energy to carry out a subprogram to establish not more than four new research reactors, along with nuclear science and engineering facilities, to address research demand and infrastructure gaps. This subprogram supports nuclear energy workforce development by establishing or enhancing nuclear science and engineering capabilities at traditionally underrepresented institutions including historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal colleges or universities, minority-serving institutions, EPSCoR universities, junior or community colleges; and associate-degree-granting colleges. The bill authorizes a total of \$600M over eight years for these activities.

The bill also adds nontechnical nuclear research to the scope of the Department of Energy's University Nuclear Leadership Program, and increases authorization of appropriations for the program by \$15M annually through 2025.