



Partnerships for Energy Security & Innovation

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

Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) introduced this bill on July 30, 2021 on behalf of herself and Representative Young Kim (R-CA), Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK), Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM), and Representative Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH).

The Partnerships for Energy Security and Innovation Act directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a nonprofit corporation entitled the “Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation” (the Foundation). The purpose of the Foundation would be to serve as a mechanism for fostering public-private partnerships that would reinforce and advance the mission of the Department by:

- Supplementing Department-supported R&D with private sector funding;
- Facilitating the commercialization of energy technologies;
- Contributing to energy workforce development; and
- Enabling information exchange and the sharing of best practices between the Department and its external collaborators.

In realizing the purpose outlined above, the Foundation would be authorized to carry out studies, competitions, projects, fellowships, and grants that support research, development, demonstration, or commercialization of energy and other Department-supported technologies. Funding would be awarded based on the technical and commercialization merits of the proposed project, and funded entities would be subject to a cost-share requirement. The bill authorizes the Foundation to work with the Department to leverage the technical capabilities and expertise of the National Laboratories to augment technology commercialization activities. The Foundation would also be able to support training and education programs relevant to its stated purpose, maturation funding to move a technology from the prototype stage to commercialization, and other stakeholder engagement activities. The Foundation would be required to provide support to and coordinate with National Laboratory-Associated Foundations.

The Foundation would be charged with meeting several oversight requirements, including the submission of a strategic plan and annual reports to relevant Congressional Committees. In addition, the Foundation would be subject to an evaluation by the Comptroller General of the United States and annual financial audits.

This bill serves as a counterpart to an amendment that passed as part of the Senate’s *United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021*. While most of the text is identical, the House version includes language that would mandate the establishment of an intellectual property policy, foster efforts to broaden participation in energy technology R&D among historically underrepresented communities and regions, and strengthen guardrails between the Foundation and the Department’s Office of Technology Transitions.