

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2986

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2014

Mr. SCHATZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR**
2 **AREAS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term
5 “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehen-
6 sive energy plan prepared and updated under sub-
7 sections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled
8 “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain in-
9 sular areas of the United States, and for other pur-
10 poses”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C.
11 1492).

12 (2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy
13 action plan” means the plan required by subsection
14 (d).

15 (3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term
16 “Freely Associated States” means the Federated
17 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall
18 Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

19 (4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas”
20 means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the
21 Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and
22 the Virgin Islands.

23 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

25 (6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team
26 established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall,
3 within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, es-
4 tablish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

5 (1) to develop an energy action plan addressing
6 the energy needs of each of the insular areas and
7 Freely Associated States; and

8 (2) to assist each of the insular areas and Free-
9 ly Associated States in implementing such plan.

10 (c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANI-
11 ZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall
12 consider including regional utility organizations.

13 (d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with sub-
14 section (b), the energy action plan shall include—

15 (1) recommendations, based on the comprehen-
16 sive energy plan where applicable, to—

17 (A) reduce reliance and expenditures on
18 fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely As-
19 sociated States from ports outside the United
20 States;

21 (B) develop and utilize domestic fuel en-
22 ergy sources; and

23 (C) improve performance of energy infra-
24 structure and overall energy efficiency;

1 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “December
2 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and
3 (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

4 (2) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2),
6 by striking “not to extend beyond December 31,
7 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5
8 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on
9 December 31, 2019”;

10 (B) by striking paragraph (5); and

11 (C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
12 paragraph (5).

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