

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 523

To coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools.

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

3 **SECTION 1. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING AS-**
4 **SISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) SCHOOL.—The term “school” means—

7 (A) an elementary school or secondary
8 school (as defined in section 9101 of the Ele-
9 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

1 (B) an institution of higher education (as
2 defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a));

4 (C) a school of the defense dependents'
5 education system under the Defense Depend-
6 ents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et
7 seq.) or established under section 2164 of title
8 10, United States Code;

9 (D) a school operated by the Bureau of In-
10 dian Affairs;

11 (E) a tribally controlled school (as defined
12 in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled
13 Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

14 (F) a Tribal College or University (as de-
15 fined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

17 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Energy.

19 (b) DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Sec-
20 retary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and
21 Renewable Energy, shall act as the lead Federal agency
22 for coordinating and disseminating information on exist-
23 ing Federal programs and assistance that may be used
24 to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, re-

1 newable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for
2 schools.

3 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out coordination
4 and outreach under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

5 (1) in consultation and coordination with the
6 appropriate Federal agencies, carry out a review of
7 existing programs and financing mechanisms (in-
8 cluding revolving loan funds and loan guarantees)
9 available in or from the Department of Agriculture,
10 the Department of Energy, the Department of Edu-
11 cation, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal
12 Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection
13 Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies with
14 jurisdiction over energy financing and facilitation
15 that are currently used or may be used to help ini-
16 tiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renew-
17 able energy, and energy retrofitting projects for
18 schools;

19 (2) establish a Federal cross-departmental col-
20 laborative coordination, education, and outreach ef-
21 fort to streamline communication and promote avail-
22 able Federal opportunities and assistance described
23 in paragraph (1) for energy efficiency, renewable en-
24 ergy, and energy retrofitting projects that enables
25 States, local educational agencies, and schools—

1 (A) to use existing Federal opportunities
2 more effectively; and

3 (B) to form partnerships with Governors,
4 State energy programs, local educational, finan-
5 cial, and energy officials, State and local gov-
6 ernment officials, nonprofit organizations, and
7 other appropriate entities to support the initi-
8 ation of the projects;

9 (3) provide technical assistance for States, local
10 educational agencies, and schools to help develop
11 and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
12 energy retrofitting projects—

13 (A) to increase the energy efficiency of
14 buildings or facilities;

15 (B) to install systems that individually
16 generate energy from renewable energy re-
17 sources;

18 (C) to establish partnerships to leverage
19 economies of scale and additional financing
20 mechanisms available to larger clean energy ini-
21 tiatives; or

22 (D) to promote—

23 (i) the maintenance of health, environ-
24 mental quality, and safety in schools, in-
25 cluding the ambient air quality, through

1 energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
2 energy retrofit projects; and

3 (ii) the achievement of expected en-
4 ergy savings and renewable energy produc-
5 tion through proper operations and main-
6 tenance practices;

7 (4) develop and maintain a single online re-
8 source website with contact information for relevant
9 technical assistance and support staff in the Office
10 of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for
11 States, local educational agencies, and schools to ef-
12 fectively access and use Federal opportunities and
13 assistance described in paragraph (1) to develop en-
14 ergy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retro-
15 fitting projects; and

16 (5) establish a process for recognition of schools
17 that—

18 (A) have successfully implemented energy
19 efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retro-
20 fitting projects; and

21 (B) are willing to serve as resources for
22 other local educational agencies and schools to
23 assist initiation of similar efforts.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to

1 Congress a report describing the implementation of this
2 section.

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