

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Resources  
5 On The Electric grid with Cybersecurity Technology Act  
6 of 2021” or the “PROTECT Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCENTIVES FOR ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT.**

3 Part II of the Federal Power Act is amended by in-  
4 serting after section 219 (16 U.S.C. 824s) the following:

5 **“SEC. 219A. INCENTIVES FOR CYBERSECURITY INVEST-**  
6 **MENTS.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY TECH-  
9 NOLOGY.—The term ‘advanced cybersecurity tech-  
10 nology’ means any technology, operational capability,  
11 or service, including computer hardware, software,  
12 or a related asset, that enhances the security posture  
13 of public utilities through improvements in the abil-  
14 ity to protect against, detect, respond to, or recover  
15 from a cybersecurity threat (as defined in section  
16 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C.  
17 1501)).

18 “(2) ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY TECHNOLOGY  
19 INFORMATION.—The term ‘advanced cybersecurity  
20 technology information’ means information relating  
21 to advanced cybersecurity technology or proposed  
22 advanced cybersecurity technology that is generated  
23 by or provided to the Commission or another Fed-  
24 eral agency.

25 “(b) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
26 of enactment of this section, the Commission, in consulta-

1 tion with the Secretary of Energy, the North American  
2 Electric Reliability Corporation, the Electricity Subsector  
3 Coordinating Council, and the National Association of  
4 Regulatory Utility Commissioners, shall conduct a study  
5 to identify incentive-based, including performance-based,  
6 rate treatments for the transmission and sale of electric  
7 energy subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that  
8 could be used to encourage—

9           “(1) investment by public utilities in advanced  
10        cybersecurity technology; and

11           “(2) participation by public utilities in cyberse-  
12        curity threat information sharing programs.

13        “(c) INCENTIVE-BASED RATE TREATMENT.—Not  
14 later than 1 year after the completion of the study under  
15 subsection (b), the Commission shall establish, by rule, in-  
16 centive-based, including performance-based, rate treat-  
17 ments for the transmission of electric energy in interstate  
18 commerce and the sale of electric energy at wholesale in  
19 interstate commerce by public utilities for the purpose of  
20 benefitting consumers by encouraging—

21           “(1) investments by public utilities in advanced  
22        cybersecurity technology; and

23           “(2) participation by public utilities in cyberse-  
24        curity threat information sharing programs.



1                   “(B) shall not be unduly discriminatory or  
2                   preferential.

3                   “(2) PROHIBITION OF DUPLICATE RECOVERY.—

4                   Any rule issued pursuant to this section shall pre-  
5                   clude rate treatments that allow unjust and unrea-  
6                   sonable double recovery for advanced cybersecurity  
7                   technology.

8                   “(f) SINGLE-ISSUE RATE FILINGS.—The Commis-  
9                   sion shall permit public utilities to apply for incentive-  
10                  based rate treatment under a rule issued under this sec-  
11                  tion on a single-issue basis by submitting to the Commis-  
12                  sion a tariff schedule under section 205 that permits re-  
13                  covery of costs and incentives over the depreciable life of  
14                  the applicable assets, without regard to changes in receipts  
15                  or other costs of the public utility.

16                  “(g) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Advanced cy-  
17                  bersecurity technology information that is provided to,  
18                  generated by, or collected by the Federal Government  
19                  under subsection (b), (c), or (f) shall be considered to be  
20                  critical electric infrastructure information under section  
21                  215A.”.

22                  **SEC. 3. RURAL AND MUNICIPAL UTILITY ADVANCED CY-**  
23                  **BERSECURITY GRANT AND TECHNICAL AS-**  
24                  **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

25                  (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1)    ADVANCED    CYBERSECURITY    TECH-  
2           NOLOGY.—The term “advanced cybersecurity tech-  
3           nology” means any technology, operational capa-  
4           bility, or service, including computer hardware, soft-  
5           ware, or a related asset, that enhances the security  
6           posture of electric utilities through improvements in  
7           the ability to protect against, detect, respond to, or  
8           recover from a cybersecurity threat (as defined in  
9           section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6  
10          U.S.C. 1501)).

11          (2)    ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
12          ty” means—

13                (A) a rural electric cooperative;

14                (B) a utility owned by a political subdivi-  
15                sion of a State, such as a municipally owned  
16                electric utility;

17                (C) a utility owned by any agency, author-  
18                ity, corporation, or instrumentality of 1 or more  
19                political subdivisions of a State;

20                (D) a not-for-profit entity that is in a part-  
21                nership with not fewer than 6 entities described  
22                in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); and

23                (E) an investor-owned electric utility that  
24                sells less than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of  
25                electricity per year.

1           (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
2           the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cyberse-  
3           curity Grant and Technical Assistance Program es-  
4           tablished under subsection (b).

5           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6           the Secretary of Energy.

7           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
8           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
9           sultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commis-  
10          sion, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation,  
11          and the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, shall  
12          establish a program, to be known as the “Rural and Mu-  
13          nicipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Tech-  
14          nical Assistance Program”, to provide grants and tech-  
15          nical assistance to, and enter into cooperative agreements  
16          with, eligible entities to protect against, detect, respond  
17          to, and recover from cybersecurity threats.

18          (c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Program  
19          shall be—

20                (1) to deploy advanced cybersecurity tech-  
21                nologies for electric utility systems; and

22                (2) to increase the participation of eligible enti-  
23                ties in cybersecurity threat information sharing pro-  
24                grams.

25          (d) AWARDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

2 (A) shall award grants and provide tech-  
3 nical assistance under the Program to eligible  
4 entities on a competitive basis;

5 (B) shall develop criteria and a formula for  
6 awarding grants and providing technical assist-  
7 ance under the Program;

8 (C) may enter into cooperative agreements  
9 with eligible entities that can facilitate the ob-  
10 jectives described in subsection (c); and

11 (D) shall establish a process to ensure that  
12 all eligible entities are informed about and can  
13 become aware of opportunities to receive grants  
14 or technical assistance under the Program.

15 (2) PRIORITY FOR GRANTS AND TECHNICAL AS-  
16 SISTANCE.—In awarding grants and providing tech-  
17 nical assistance under the Program, the Secretary  
18 shall give priority to an eligible entity that, as deter-  
19 mined by the Secretary—

20 (A) has limited cybersecurity resources;

21 (B) owns assets critical to the reliability of  
22 the bulk power system; or

23 (C) owns defense critical electric infra-  
24 structure (as defined in section 215A(a) of the  
25 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o–1(a))).



1 (e) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Information  
2 provided to, or collected by, the Federal Government  
3 under this section—

4 (1) shall be exempt from disclosure under sec-  
5 tion 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

6 (2) shall not be made available by any Federal  
7 agency, State, political subdivision of a State, or  
8 Tribal authority under any applicable law requiring  
9 public disclosure of information or records.

10 (f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-  
11 priated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of  
12 fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until  
13 expended.