

# Union Calendar No. 389

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4270

**[Report No. 117-541]**

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2021

Mr. LAMB (for himself, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LUCAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

OCTOBER 7, 2022

Additional sponsor: Mrs. FLETCHER

OCTOBER 7, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 30, 2021]

# **A BILL**

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, 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 “Abandoned Well Remedi-*  
 5       *ation Research and Development Act”.*

6       **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.**

7       *The Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended—*

8               *(1) in subtitle F of title IX (42 U.S.C. 16291 et*  
 9       *seq.), by inserting after section 969D the following:*

10       **“SEC. 969E. ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOP-**  
 11               **MENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

12       *“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after*  
 13       *the date of enactment of the Abandoned Well Remediation*  
 14       *Research and Development Act, the Secretary of Energy*  
 15       *shall, in coordination with relevant Federal and state agen-*  
 16       *cies and entities, establish a research, development, and*  
 17       *demonstration program to improve—*

18               *“(1) data collection on the location of abandoned*  
 19       *wells;*

20               *“(2) the plugging, remediation, reclamation, and*  
 21       *repurposing of abandoned wells; and*

22               *“(3) strategies to mitigate potential environ-*  
 23       *mental impacts of documented and undocumented*  
 24       *abandoned wells.*

1       “(b) *ACTIVITIES.*—*The research, development, and*  
2 *demonstration under subsection (a) shall include activities*  
3 *to improve—*

4               “(1) *remote sensor capabilities, LiDAR capabili-*  
5 *ties, optical gas imaging, magnetic survey technology,*  
6 *and any other technologies relevant to the efficient*  
7 *identification of abandoned wells;*

8               “(2) *understanding of how certain parameters of*  
9 *abandoned wells affect methane emission rates of such*  
10 *wells, including paramaters such as well age, well*  
11 *depth, geology, construction, case material, and geo-*  
12 *graphic region;*

13               “(3) *the efficiency and cost-efficacy of processes*  
14 *for plugging, remediating, reclaiming, and*  
15 *repurposing abandoned wells, including—*

16                       “(A) *improvement of processes and tech-*  
17 *nologies for the unique challenges associated with*  
18 *plugging remote abandoned wells;*

19                       “(B) *use of low carbon, lightweight cement*  
20 *or use of alternative materials and additives for*  
21 *plugging purposes; and*

22                       “(C) *repurposing of abandoned wells for al-*  
23 *ternative uses, including geothermal power pro-*  
24 *duction or carbon capture, utilization, and stor-*  
25 *age; and*

3       “(c) *COORDINATION.*—In carrying out the program es-  
4   *tablished in (a), the Secretary shall ensure coordination of*  
5   *these activities with institutions of higher education, the*  
6   *Department of Energy National Laboratories, and the pri-*  
7   *vate sector.*

8           “(d) *ABANDONED WELL DEFINED.*—*In this section,*  
9   *the term ‘abandoned well’ means a well originally drilled*  
10 *in connection with oil and gas operations that is not being*  
11 *used, has not been plugged, and has no anticipated use in*  
12 *oil and gas operations.*

13 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are*  
14 *authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section—*

15 “(1) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

16 “(2) \$31,250,000 for fiscal year 2023;

17 “(3) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2024;

18 “(4) \$33,750,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

19 “(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”; and

(2) in section 1(b) (42 U.S.C. 15801 note), in the table of contents, by inserting after the matter related to section 969D the following:

*“Sec. 969E. Abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program.”.*

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