

Excerpt from the Joint Staff Section-by-Section Analysis for Manager's Amendment to S.2012

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SUBTITLE D--ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY STORAGE

Section 2301. Grid storage program Section

2301 directs the Secretary of Energy to conduct a research, development, and demonstration program for electric grid energy storage to address challenges identified in the 2013 DOE Strategic Plan for Grid Energy Storage.

Section 2302. Electric system grid architecture, scenario development, and modeling

Section 2302 requires the Secretary of Energy to establish a collaborative process to develop model grid architecture and a set of future scenarios for the electric system to examine the impacts of different combinations of resources and then determine whether the creation of any additional standards for ensuring the interoperability of the grid system and associated communications networks are required.

Section 2303. Technology demonstration on the distribution system

Section 2303 directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to carry out eligible projects related to the modernization of the electric grid and requires the development of a cybersecurity plan and the performance of privacy risk analysis for those projects.

Section 2304. Hybrid micro-grid systems for isolated and resilient communities

Section 2304 requires the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the development of hybrid micro-grid systems for isolated communities and micro-grid systems to increase the resilience of critical infrastructure.

Section 2305. Voluntary model pathways

Section 2305 requires the Secretary of Energy to initiate development of voluntary model pathways for modernizing the electric grid through a collaborative public-private effort to facilitate certain objectives, and establishes a Steering Committee to facilitate the development.

Section 2306. Performance metrics for electricity infrastructure providers

Section 2306 requires the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress within two years after enactment a report that includes an evaluation of the performance of the electric grid in light of metrics to be developed and a description of the costs and benefits associated with certain evaluated scenarios developed under section 2302.

Section 2307. State and regional distribution planning

Section 2307(a) requires the Secretary of Energy, upon the request of the State, to partner with States and regional organizations to facilitate development of State and regional electric distribution plans by conducting a resource assessment and developing open source tools for planning and operations. Section 2307(c) authorizes the Secretary to provide technical assistance to States and others.

Section 2308. Authorization of appropriations

Section 2308 provides an authorization of appropriations to carry out sections 2302 through 2307.

Section 2309. Electric transmission infrastructure permitting

Section 2309(a) codifies the Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission to improve the efficiency of electric transmitting infrastructure permitting. Section 2309(b) establishes the position of Transmission Ombudsperson within Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to resolve delays and complaints related to the electric transmission infrastructure permitting process. Section 2309(c) ensures the continuity of existing use and occupancy right-of-ways granted across public lands or National Forest System land (including vegetation management agreements, where applicable) for the transmission of electric energy by any Federal department or agency by providing for agreements between such Federal entities and the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture.

Section 2310. Report by transmission organizations on distributed energy resources and microgrid systems

Section 2310 requires Transmission Organizations to submit a report to FERC within six months identifying barriers to the deployment of distributed energy systems and micro-grid systems, as well as potential changes to the operational requirements for, or the charges associated with, the interconnection of these resources to the Transmission Organization.

Section 2311. Net metering study guidance

Section 2311 amends Title 18 of the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005 and requires the Secretary of Energy to issue guidance on criteria for net metering studies conducted by the DOE and directs the DOE to undertake a study of net energy metering.