

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4136

To establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation within the  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2025

Mr. LEVIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participa-  
tion within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 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 “NRC Office of Public  
5       Engagement and Participation Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPA-**  
7       **TION.**

8       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
9       Commission an office to be known as the Office of Public  
10      Engagement and Participation.

1 (b) DIRECTOR.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be adminis-  
3 tered by a Director.

4 (2) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to the approval of  
5 the Commission, the Chairman shall appoint the Di-  
6 rector.

7 (3) TERM.—Subject to paragraph (7), the Di-  
8 rector shall serve for—

9 (A) a term of five years; and

10 (B) no more than two terms.

11 (4) DUTIES.—The Director—

12 (A) shall be responsible for the discharge  
13 of the functions of the Office; and

14 (B) may appoint, and assign the duties of,  
15 staff of the Office as necessary to carry out the  
16 functions of the Office.

17 (5) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be  
18 compensated at a rate of pay not greater than the  
19 maximum rate of pay prescribed for a senior execu-  
20 tive in the Senior Executive Service under section  
21 5382 of title 5, United States Code.

22 (6) REMOVAL.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the approval  
24 of the Commission to initiate an action, the

1 Chairman or a member of the Commission may  
2 initiate an action for removal of the Director.

3 (B) REMOVAL LIMITATIONS.—The Com-  
4 mission may remove the Director for ineffi-  
5 ciency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office  
6 but for no other cause.

7 (7) EXPIRATION OF TERM.—A Director may  
8 continue to serve after the expiration of the term of  
9 such Director until a successor is appointed.

10 (c) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The functions of the Office  
12 shall be to—

13 (A) support public participation in pro-  
14 ceedings before the Commission;

15 (B) advocate for the public interest within  
16 the jurisdiction of the Commission;

17 (C) provide educational, legal, and tech-  
18 nical guidance and assistance to members of  
19 the public with respect to participating in pro-  
20 ceedings before the Commission, including guid-  
21 ance on submitting comments, contentions, and  
22 hearing requests;

23 (D) coordinate assistance available to per-  
24 sons participating or proposing to participate in  
25 proceedings before the Commission; and

1           (E) coordinate assistance to the public  
2           with respect to authorities exercised by the  
3           Commission.

4           (2) COMPENSATION OF FEES.—Notwith-  
5           standing section 502 of the Energy and Water De-  
6           velopment Appropriations Act, 1993 (5 U.S.C. 504  
7           note; Public Law 102–377), the Commission may,  
8           under rules promulgated by the Commission, provide  
9           compensation for reasonable attorney’s fees, expert  
10          witness fees, and other costs of participating in any  
11          proceeding before the Commission to any person  
12          whose participation substantially contributed to the  
13          approval, in whole or in part, of a position advocated  
14          by such person, if the Commission determines  
15          that—

16                 (A) the proceeding is significant; and

17                 (B) the participation of such person in  
18          such proceeding without receipt of compensa-  
19          tion constitutes a significant financial hardship  
20          to such person.

21          (d) INDEPENDENT OFFICE.—The Chairman shall  
22          take appropriate actions to ensure the independence of the  
23          Office within the Commission, including independence  
24          from other officers and employees of the Commission.

25          (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
2           after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
3           thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a  
4           report on the activities of the Office.

5           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report under para-  
6           graph (1) shall include—

7                   (A) the number and types of requests for  
8                   assistance received by the Office during the pre-  
9                   ceding year; and

10                   (B) an assessment of the most common  
11                   difficulties encountered by members of the pub-  
12                   lic with participating or proposing to participate  
13                   in proceedings before the Commission in the  
14                   preceding year.

15           (f) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
16           STANDARDS.—Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as  
17           reducing the standards for the Commission to engage the  
18           public in any proceedings or decisions.

19           (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20                   (1) CHAIRMAN.—The term “Chairman” means  
21                   the Chairman of the Commission.

22                   (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
23                   means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

1           (3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-  
2       fice of Public Engagement and Participation estab-  
3       lished under subsection (a).

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