

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8648

To establish in the Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2026

Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish in the Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology program, 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 “Framework for Over-  
5 sight of Responsible Global Energy Act” or the “FORGE  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUC-**  
2 **TURE FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF SMALL**  
3 **MODULAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGY PRO-**  
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the  
6 Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for  
7 Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology  
8 program (hereafter in this section referred to as the  
9 “FIRST program”).

10 (b) PROGRAM FUNCTIONS.—The Under Secretary for  
11 Arms Control and International Security, or the designee  
12 of the Under Secretary, shall manage the FIRST pro-  
13 gram, which shall—

14 (1) promote responsible deployment of civil nu-  
15 clear energy internationally that benefits United  
16 States economic and national security interests;

17 (2) advocate, through relevant bilateral and  
18 multilateral diplomatic engagements and forums, for  
19 civil nuclear energy projects, technology, and prod-  
20 ucts sourced or exported from United States busi-  
21 nesses;

22 (3) engage in diplomacy with partner govern-  
23 ments on prioritizing the highest safety, security,  
24 and nonproliferation standards as requirements for  
25 civil nuclear reactor deployment decisions, including

1 with regard to small modular reactor infrastructure,  
2 technology, and products;

3 (4) provide consultation to partner countries re-  
4 garding best practices in the field of licensing, legal,  
5 and regulatory frameworks for the importation or  
6 adoption of United States nuclear reactor infrastruc-  
7 ture, technology, or products;

8 (5) provide early-stage commercial project de-  
9 velopment support, including feasibility and engi-  
10 neering studies, that are critical to launching United  
11 States commercial civil nuclear projects abroad and  
12 ensure fair market access for United States busi-  
13 nesses relative to state-backed competitors; and

14 (6) cooperate with partner countries in the  
15 areas of training programs, technical resource shar-  
16 ing, and potential coordination of codes and stand-  
17 ards to support the facilitation of small modular re-  
18 actor fleet deployment.

19 (c) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
22 Under Secretary for Arms Control and International  
23 Security, or the designee of such Under Secretary,  
24 shall provide to the appropriate congressional com-  
25 mittees a report that includes—

1 (A) details on the implementation of the  
2 FIRST program;

3 (B) a description of FIRST program diplo-  
4 matic outreach and activities, including bilateral  
5 and multilateral engagements that promote ac-  
6 tivities described in subsection (b);

7 (C) the list of current contributing part-  
8 ners of the FIRST program;

9 (D) details relating to potential or ongoing  
10 cooperation with contributing partners of the  
11 FIRST program related to program activities  
12 described in subsection (b);

13 (E) a description of engagements and ac-  
14 tivities conducted by the Department of State  
15 to promote and expand the FIRST program to  
16 additional potential contributing partners;

17 (F) a description of FIRST program-re-  
18 lated engagements with United States busi-  
19 nesses in the civil nuclear sector; and

20 (G) a description of funds expended on  
21 FIRST program-related activities, including  
22 programming that uses funds from Non-  
23 proliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining, and  
24 Related Programs and related funding sources  
25 within the Department.

1           (2) FORM.—The report required by this sub-  
2           section shall be submitted in unclassified form but  
3           may include a classified annex submitted separately  
4           from the unclassified portion.

5           (d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the  
6           date of the enactment of this Act, and on a triannual basis  
7           thereafter, the Under Secretary for Arms Control and  
8           International Security, or the designee of the Under Sec-  
9           retary, shall provide to the appropriate congressional com-  
10          mittees a briefing that includes the information required  
11          in subsection (c).

12          (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13               (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
14               TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
15               mittees” means—

16                       (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
17                       the House of the Representatives; and

18                       (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
19                       the Senate.

20               (2) UNITED STATES BUSINESS.—The term  
21               “United States business” has the meaning given  
22               such term in section 2304 of the Export Enhance-  
23               ment Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4724).

1       (f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on June  
2   8, 2034.

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