

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1346

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an e-prize competition pilot program to provide up to 4 financial awards to eligible entities that develop and verifiably demonstrate technology that reduces the cost of electricity or space heat in a high-cost region.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish an e-prize competition pilot program to provide up to 4 financial awards to eligible entities that develop and verifiably demonstrate technology that reduces the cost of electricity or space heat in a high-cost region.

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 “E-Prize Competition
5 Pilot Program Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COMPETITION BOARD.—The term “Com-
 2 petition Board” means the competition board estab-
 3 lished under section 3(a)(2).

4 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
 5 ty” means any—

6 (A) nonpublic entity; or

7 (B) public-private partnership in which the
 8 private entity is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the partner-
 9 ship.

10 (3) ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION
 11 FUND.—The term “Energy Technology Commer-
 12 cialization Fund” means the fund established under
 13 section 1001(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
 14 (42 U.S.C. 16391).

15 (4) HIGH-COST REGION.—The term “high-cost
 16 region” means a region in which the average cost of
 17 electrical power or space heat exceeds 150 percent of
 18 the national average retail cost, as determined by
 19 the Secretary.

20 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 21 the Secretary of Energy.

22 **SEC. 3. PRIZE COMPETITION PILOT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

24 (1) establish a prize competition under which
 25 eligible entities compete to develop and verifiably

1 demonstrate technology that reduces the cost of elec-
2 tricity or space heat in high-cost regions by at least
3 25 percent;

4 (2) establish a Competition Board to award not
5 more than 4 prizes, each in an amount of not more
6 than \$1,000,000; and

7 (3) use for each award amounts made available
8 to the Energy Technology Commercialization Fund.

9 (b) DURATION.—The duration for the prize competi-
10 tion shall be not less than 2 years or more than 5 years.

11 (c) SELECTION.—In selecting a winner for each prize,
12 the Competition Board shall evaluate the technology based
13 on the following criteria:

14 (1) Cost-effectiveness and ease of installation
15 and maintenance of the technology.

16 (2) Amount by which the technology will de-
17 crease electricity or space heating costs in a high-
18 cost region.

19 (3) Ability of the technology to be deployed in
20 a variety of climates and locations.

21 (4) Ease of use of the technology.

22 (5) Whether the technology is designed to be of
23 immediate or imminent use.

24 (6) Potential for private sector investment in
25 the technology.

- 1 (7) Potential of the technology to transform an
- 2 existing industry or establish a new industry.

