

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5649

To direct the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to establish a grant program to fund research and development with respect to certain cellular phone applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2020

Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to establish a grant program to fund research and development with respect to certain cellular phone applications, 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 “Consumer Access to
5 Grid Information Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CELLULAR PHONE APPLICA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary
5 shall establish a grant program under which the Assistant
6 Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to carry
7 out an eligible project described in subsection (b).

8 (b) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—An eligible entity receiving
9 a grant under subsection (a) may use grant funds for re-
10 search and development activities with respect to the cre-
11 ation of a cellular phone application that allows the public
12 to monitor an applicable power grid, including providing
13 a user with the ability to—

- 14 (1) receive grid system alerts;
- 15 (2) view the status of the grid, including—
 - 16 (A) current demand for power;
 - 17 (B) the forecasted peak demand for power;
- 18 and
- 19 (C) trends in demand for power;
- 20 (3) monitor power grid capacity;
- 21 (4) visualize, through a chart or graph—
 - 22 (A) the types of energy sources that are
 - 23 serving the grid, including clean energy sources
 - 24 and other energy sources, as applicable;

1 (B) the percentage of power that is being
2 provided to the grid from each such energy
3 source;

4 (C) the power supply in response to de-
5 mand on the grid, with a display of the dif-
6 ferent types of energy sources being used to
7 meet demand; and

8 (D) the carbon dioxide emissions resulting
9 from energy use with respect to the grid, in-
10 cluding a breakdown showing the percentage of
11 emissions coming from any energy sources cre-
12 ating such emissions; and

13 (5) monitor energy prices in each region served
14 by an independent system operator.

15 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
16 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
17 Assistant Secretary an application in such form, at such
18 time, and containing such information as the Assistant
19 Secretary determines necessary.

20 (d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Secretary shall con-
21 duct such outreach as the Assistant Secretary determines
22 is necessary to ensure that eligible entities are aware of
23 the existence of the grant program established under this
24 section.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPLICABLE POWER GRID; GRID.—The
4 terms “applicable power grid” and “grid” mean a
5 power grid overseen by an eligible entity.

6 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
7 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of the
8 Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
9 of the Department of Energy.

10 (3) CELLULAR PHONE APPLICATION.—The
11 term “cellular phone application” means a software
12 application that enables the performance of specific
13 tasks that may be run on a computer, a mobile de-
14 vice, the internet, or any other electronic device.

15 (4) CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE.—The term “clean
16 energy source” means a fuel, electrical, or energy
17 source that significantly limits or avoids greenhouse
18 gas emissions, as determined by the Secretary.

19 (5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
20 ty” means an independent system operator, regional
21 transmission organization, or other transmission sys-
22 tem operator.

23 (6) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The
24 term “independent system operator” has the mean-
25 ing given such term in section 3 of the Federal
26 Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

1 (7) LOAD.—The term “load” means the total
2 amount of electrical power that is demanded by
3 users of the grid.

4 (8) REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—
5 The term “regional transmission organization” has
6 the meaning given such term in section 3 of the
7 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

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