

- Sec.
18632. Energy Innovation Hubs.
- SUBCHAPTER III—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF SCIENCE POLICY
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§ 18601. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Department

The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) Director

The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Science of the Department, except as otherwise indicated.

(3) National Laboratory

The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given that term in section 15801 of this title.

(4) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(Pub. L. 115–246, §2, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3130.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 115–246, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3130, known as the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 115–246, §1(a), Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3130, provided that: “This Act [see Short Title notes below and Tables for classification] may be cited as the ‘Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act’.”

Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §101, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3131, provided that: “This title [enacting subchapter I of this chapter and amending sections 16352 and 16391 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act’.”

Pub. L. 115–246, title II, §201, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3134, provided that: “This title [enacting subchapter II of this chapter and section 16358 of this title, amending sections 16357 and 16538 of this title, and repealing section 16358 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Department of Energy Research Coordination Act’.”

Pub. L. 115–246, title III, §301, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3140, provided that: “This title [enacting subchapter III

of this chapter and amending sections 2053, 7139, 16313, 16315, 16316, and 16321 of this title, sections 5541 and 5542 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, and provisions set out as a note under section 5501 of Title 15] may be cited as the ‘Department of Energy Office of Science Policy Act’.”

SUBCHAPTER I—LABORATORY MODERNIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

§ 18611. Sense of Congress on accelerating energy innovation

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) although important progress has been made in cost reduction and deployment of clean energy technologies, accelerating clean energy innovation will help meet critical competitiveness, energy security, and environmental goals;

(2) accelerating the pace of clean energy innovation in the United States calls for—

(A) supporting existing research and development programs at the Department and the world-class National Laboratories;

(B) exploring and developing new pathways for innovators, investors, and decision-makers to leverage the resources of the Department for addressing the challenges and comparative strengths of geographic regions; and

(C) recognizing the financial constraints of the Department, regularly reviewing clean energy programs to ensure that taxpayer investments are maximized;

(3) the energy supply, demand, policies, markets, and resource options of the United States vary by geographic region;

(4) a regional approach to innovation can bridge the gaps between local talent, institutions, and industries to identify opportunities and convert United States investment into domestic companies; and

(5) Congress, the Secretary, and energy industry participants should advance efforts that promote international, domestic, and regional cooperation on the research and development of energy innovations that—

(A) provide clean, affordable, and reliable energy for everyone;

(B) promote economic growth;

(C) are critical for energy security; and

(D) are sustainable without government support.

(Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §103, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3131.)

§ 18612. Restoration of laboratory directed research and development program

(a) In general

Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall ensure that laboratory operating contractors do not allocate costs of general and administrative overhead to laboratory directed research and development.

(b) Exception for national security laboratories

This section shall not apply to the national security laboratories with respect to which section 3119¹ of the National Defense Authorization

¹ See References in Text note below.

Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) applies.

(Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §104, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3132.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3119 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, referred to in subsec. (b), is section 3119 of Pub. L. 114–328, which was set out as a note under section 2791 of Title 50, War and National Defense, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 117–263, div. C, title XXXI, §3116(b), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3054.

§ 18613. Research grants database

(a) In general

The Secretary shall establish and maintain a public database, accessible on the website of the Department, that contains a searchable listing of each unclassified research and development project contract, grant, cooperative agreement, task order for a federally funded research and development center, or other transaction administered by the Department.

(b) Requirements

Each listing described in subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, for each listed project, the Department office carrying out the project, the project name, an abstract or summary of the project, funding levels, project duration, contractor or grantee name (including the names of any subcontractors), and expected objectives and milestones.

(c) Relevant literature and patents

The Secretary shall provide information through the public database established under subsection (a) on relevant literature and patents that are associated with each research and development project contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or other transaction, of the Department.

(Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §105, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3132.)

§ 18614. Technology transfer and transitions assessment

Not later than 1 year after September 28, 2018, and as often as the Secretary determines to be necessary thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes recommended changes to the policy of the Department and legislative changes to section 16391 of this title to improve the ability of the Department to successfully transfer new energy technologies to the private sector.

(Pub. L. 115–246, title I, §106, Sept. 28, 2018, 132 Stat. 3132.)

§ 18615. Agreements for commercializing technology pilot program

(a) In general

The Secretary shall carry out the Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program of the Department, as announced by the Secretary on December 8, 2011, in accordance with this section.

(b) Terms

Each agreement entered into pursuant to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall provide to the contractor of the applicable National Laboratory, to the maximum extent determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, increased authority to negotiate contract terms, such as intellectual property rights, payment structures, performance guarantees, and multiparty collaborations.

(c) Eligibility

(1) In general

Any director of a National Laboratory may enter into an agreement pursuant to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a).

(2) Agreements with non-Federal entities

To carry out paragraph (1) and subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to execute agreements with a non-Federal entity, including a non-Federal entity already receiving Federal funding that will be used to support activities under agreements executed pursuant to paragraph (1), provided that such funding is solely used to carry out the purposes of the Federal award.

(3) Restriction

The requirements of chapter 18 of title 35 (commonly known as the “Bayh-Dole Act”) shall apply if—

(A) the agreement is a funding agreement (as that term is defined in section 201 of that title); and

(B) at least one of the parties to the funding agreement is eligible to receive rights under that chapter.

(d) Submission to Secretary

Each affected director of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary, with respect to each agreement entered into under this section—

(1) a summary of information relating to the relevant project;

(2) the total estimated costs of the project;

(3) estimated commencement and completion dates of the project; and

(4) other documentation determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) Certification

The Secretary shall require the contractor of the affected National Laboratory to certify that each activity carried out under a project for which an agreement is entered into under this section—

(1) is not in direct competition with the private sector; and

(2) does not present, or minimizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agreement under this section.

(f) Extension

The pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall be extended until September 30, 2019.

(g) Reports

(1) Overall assessment

Not later than 60 days after the date described in subsection (f), the Secretary, in co-