



S.2657

Section-by-Section

Section 1: Short Title.

The Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act

Section 2: Update to Geothermal Resource Assessment.

Identifying New Geothermal Opportunities – Directs the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to update its geothermal resource assessment with more modern techniques and with a focus on areas suitable for new technologies such as critical minerals coproduction and long-duration energy storage. Specifically directs USGS to assess overall potential in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Section 3: General Geothermal Research and Development Programs.

New Geothermal Tools and Markets – Creates a new initiative at the Department of Energy (DOE) between the Offices of Fossil Energy and Geothermal Energy to transfer and adapt key technologies from the oil and gas sector that are relevant to geothermal development. Creates a secondary use initiative to research alternative uses for geothermal energy besides electricity, including minerals recovery, grid management, and desalination. Further creates a prize competition for the production of critical minerals from geothermal brines, and authorizes \$20 million for that prize over four years.

Section 4: Modifying the Definition of Renewable Energy to include Thermal Energy.

Giving Heat Pumps Their Due – Adds geothermal energy (including heat pumps) and waste heat to qualify as renewable under the Energy Policy Act of 2005's federal renewable energy purchase requirement.

Section 5: Enhanced Geothermal Research and Development.

Demonstrating Geothermal Anywhere – Authorizes up to two Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) sites. Demonstrates four enhanced geothermal systems (EGS)—including at least one in the eastern U.S. Adds new research areas to keep EGS up to date.

Section 6: Authorization of Appropriations.

Keeping GTO Competitive – Reauthorizes DOE's geothermal R&D program at \$150 million per year for the next five years.

Section 7: Reauthorization of High Cost Region Grant Program.

Bringing Renewable Heat to Those Who Need It – Reauthorizes a grant program for development in places where utility prices are 150 percent higher than the national average at \$5 million per year for five years.

Section 8: Program to Improve Federal Geothermal Permit Coordination.

Regulatory Reform – Directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to coordinate with the Forest Service, Department of Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency to operate specialized permitting program offices that can speed up the processing of permits for geothermal energy production on federal land, where 90 percent of identified resources are located. This is modeled after a successful pilot permit coordination program BLM operated for oil and gas leasing.