TITLE 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

Chap. ...Sec.
1. The Public Health Service [Mostly Repealed or Omitted, See Chapter 6A] ...1
1A. The Public Health Service; Supplemental Provisions [Transferred or Omitted] ...71
2. Sanitation and Quarantine ...81
3. Leprosy [Repealed] ...121
3A. Cancer [Repealed] ...137
4. Viruses, Serums, Toxins, Antitoxins, etc. [Repealed] ...141
5. Maternity and Infancy Welfare and Hygiene [Repealed] ...161
6. The Children’s Bureau ...191
6A. Public Health Service ...201
7. Social Security ...301
7A. Temporary Unemployment Compensation Program [Omitted] ...1400
8. Low-Income Housing ...1401
8A. Slum Clearance, Urban Renewal, and Farm Housing ...1441
8B. Public Works or Facilities [Omitted] ...1491
8C. Open-Space Land [Omitted or Repealed] ...1500
9. Housing of Persons Engaged in National Defense ...1501
10. Federal Security Agency [Transferred or Omitted] ...1601
11. Compensation for Disability or Death to Persons Employed at Military, Air, and Naval Bases Outside United States ...1651
12. Compensation for Injury, Death, or Detention of Employees of Contractors with United States Outside United States ...1701
13. School Lunch Programs ...1751
13A. Child Nutrition ...1771
14. Development and Control of Atomic Energy [Transferred to Chapter 23] ...1801
15. Disaster Relief [Repealed] ...1851
15A. Reciprocal Fire Protection Agreements ...1856
15B. Air Pollution Control [Transferred or Repealed] ...1857
16. National Science Foundation ...1861
16A. Grants for Support of Scientific Research [Repealed] ...1891
16B. Contracts for Scientific and Technological Research ...1900
17. Federal Employment Service [Transferred] ...1901
18. Youth Medals ...1921
19. Saline and Salt Waters [Repealed, Omitted, or Transferred] ...1951
19A. Water Resources Research Program [Repealed] ...1961
19B. Water Resources Planning ...1962
20. Elective Franchise ...1971
20A. Civil Rights Commission ...1975
21. Civil Rights ...1981
21A. Privacy Protection ...2000aa
21B. Religious Freedom Restoration ...2000bb
21C. Protection of Religious Exercise in Land Use and by Institutionalized Persons ...2000cc
21D. Detainee Treatment ...2000dd
21E. Privacy and Civil Liberties Protection and Oversight ...2000ee
21F. Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Genetic Information ...2000ff
22. Indian Hospitals and Health Facilities ...2001
23. Development and Control of Atomic Energy ...2011
24. Disposal of Atomic Energy Communities ...2301
25. Federal Flood Insurance ...2401
26. National Space Program [Repealed, Omitted, or Transferred] ...2451
26A. National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program [Repealed or Transferred] ...2486
26B. Biomedical Research in Space [Repealed or Transferred] ...2487
27. Loan Service of Captioned Films and Educational Media for Handicapped ...2491
28. Area Redevelopment Program [Omitted or Repealed] ...2501
29. Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control [Omitted] ...2541
30. Manpower Development and Training Program [Repealed] ...2571
31. Public Works Acceleration Program ...2641
32. Third Party Liability for Hospital and Medical Care ...2651
33. Community Mental Health Centers [Omitted, Transferred, or Repealed] ...2661
34. Economic Opportunity Program ...2701
35. Programs for Older Americans ...3001
35A. Community Service Employment for Older Americans [Repealed] ...3061
36. Compensation of Condemnees in Development Programs [Repealed] ...3071
37. Community Facilities and Advance Land Acquisition ...3101
38. Public Works and Economic Development ...3121
39. Solid Waste Disposal [Omitted or Repealed, See Chapter 82] ...3251
40. Soil Information Assistance for Community Planning and Resource Development ...3271
41. Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Program ...3301
42. Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation ...3401
43. Department of Health and Human Services ...3501
44. Department of Housing and Urban Development ...3531
45. Fair Housing ...3601
46. Justice System Improvement ...3701
47. Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Control [Omitted or Repealed] ...3801
48. Guarantees for Financing New Community Land Development [Repealed or Omitted] ...3901
49. National Housing Partnerships ...3931
50. National Flood Insurance ...4001
51. Design and Construction of Public Buildings To Accommodate Physically Handicapped ...4151
52. Intergovernmental Cooperation [Repealed, See Chapter 65 of Title 31] ...4201
52A. Joint Funding Simplification [Repealed] ...4251
53. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations ...4271
54. Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish-Speaking People [Omitted] ...4301
55. National Environmental Policy ...4321
56. Environmental Quality Improvement ...4371
57. Environmental Pollution Study ...4391
58. Disaster Relief [Repealed or Transferred] ...4401
59. National Urban Policy and New Community Development ...4501
60. Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Program ...4541
61. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs ...4601
62. Intergovernmental Personnel Program ...4701
63. Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention ...4801
63A. Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction ...4851
64. Public Service Employment Programs [Omitted] ...4871
65. Noise Control ...4901
66. Domestic Volunteer Services ...4950
67. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform ...5101
68. Disaster Relief ...5121
69. Community Development ...5301
70. Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards ...5401
71. Solar Energy ...5501
72. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ...5601
73. Development of Energy Sources ...5801
74. Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development ...5901
75. Programs for Individuals With Developmental Disabilities [Repealed] ...6000
76. Age Discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs ...6101
77. Energy Conservation ...6201
78. National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska ...6501
79. Science and Technology Policy, Organization and Priorities ...6601
80. Public Works Employment ...6701
81. Energy Conservation and Resource Renewal ...6801
82. Solid Waste Disposal ...6901
83. Energy Extension Service ...7001
84. Department of Energy ...7101
85. Air Pollution Prevention and Control ...7401
86. Earthquake Hazards Reduction ...7701
87. Water Research and Development [Repealed or Transferred] ...7801
88. Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control ...7901
89. Congregate Housing Services ...8001
90. Neighborhood and City Reinvestment, Self-Help and Revitalization ...8101
91. National Energy Conservation Policy ...8201
92. Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use ...8301
93. Emergency Energy Conservation ...8501
94. Low-Income Energy Assistance ...8601
95. United States Synthetic Fuels Corporation [Omitted] ...8701
96. Biomass Energy and Alcohol Fuels ...8801
97. Acid Precipitation Program and Carbon Dioxide Study ...8901
98. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Research and Development ...9001
99. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion ...9101
100. Wind Energy Systems ...9201
101. Magnetic Fusion Energy Engineering ...9301
102. Mental Health Systems ...9401
103. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability ...9601
104. Nuclear Safety Research, Development, and Demonstration ...9701
105. Community Services Programs ...9801
106. Community Services Block Grant Program ...9901
107. Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety ...10001
108. Nuclear Waste Policy ...10101
109. Water Resources Research ...10301
109A. Membrane Processes Research ...10341
109B. Secure Water ...10361
110. Family Violence Prevention and Services ...10401
111. Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance ...10501
112. Victim Compensation and Assistance ...10601
113. State Justice Institute ...10701
114. Protection and Advocacy for Individuals With Mental Illness ...10801
115. Child Development Associate Scholarship Assistance Program ...10901
116. Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know ...11001
117. Encouraging Good Faith Professional Review Activities ...11101
118. Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Research ...11201
119. Homeless Assistance ...11301
120. Enterprise Zone Development ...11501
121. International Child Abduction Remedies ...11601
122. Native Hawaiian Health Care ...11701
123. Drug Abuse Education and Prevention ...11801
124. Public Housing Drug Elimination ...11901
125. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technology Competitiveness ...12001
126. Equal Opportunity for Individuals With Disabilities ...12101
127. Coordinated Services for Children, Youth, and Families ...12301
128. Hydrogen Research, Development, and Demonstration Program ...12401
129. National and Community Service ...12501
130. National Affordable Housing ...12701
131. Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS ...12901
132. Victims of Child Abuse ...13001
133. Pollution Prevention ...13101
134. Energy Policy ...13201
135. Residency and Service Requirements in Federally Assisted Housing ...13601
136. Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement ...13701
137. Management of Rechargeable Batteries and Batteries Containing Mercury ...14301
138. Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction ...14401
139. Volunteer Protection ...14501
140. Criminal Justice Identification, Information, and Communication ...14601
140A. Jennifer’s Law ...14661
141. Commercial Space Opportunities and Transportation Services [Repealed or Transferred] ...14701
142. Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness [Repealed] ...14801
143. Intercountry Adoptions ...14901
144. Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights ...15001
145. Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor and Tributes ...15201
145A. Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery ...15231
146. Election Administration Improvement ...15301
147. Prison Rape Elimination ...15601
148. Windstorm Impact Reduction ...15701
149. National Energy Policy and Programs ...15801
150. National Aeronautics and Space Programs, 2005 [Repealed, Omitted, or Transferred] ...16601
151. Child Protection and Safety  ...16901
152. Energy Independence and Security  ...17001
153. Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention  ...17501
154. Combating Child Exploitation  ...17601
155. Aeronautics and Space Activities [Repealed, Omitted, or Transferred]  ...17701
156. Health Information Technology  ...17901
157. Quality, Affordable Health Care for All Americans  ...18001
158. Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women  ...18201
159. Space Exploration, Technology, and Science  ...18301
CHAPTER 128—HYDROGEN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Sec.
12401. Finding, purposes, and definitions.
12402. Report to Congress.
12403. Hydrogen research and development.
12404. Demonstrations.
12405. Technology transfer program.
12406. Coordination and consultation.
12407. Technical panel.
12408. Authorization of appropriations.

§ 12401. Finding, purposes, and definitions

(a) Finding
Congress finds that it is in the national interest to accelerate efforts to develop a domestic capability to economically produce hydrogen in quantities that will make a significant contribution toward reducing the Nation’s dependence on conventional fuels.

(b) Purposes
The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a research, development, and demonstration program leading to the production, storage, transport, and use of hydrogen for industrial, residential, transportation, and utility applications;

(2) to direct the Secretary to develop a technology assessment and information transfer program among the Federal agencies and aerospace, transportation, energy, and other entities; and

(3) to develop renewable energy resources as a primary source of energy for the production of hydrogen.

(c) Definitions
As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) “critical technology” (or “critical technical issue”) means a technology (or issue) that, in the opinion of the Secretary, requires understanding and development in order to take the next needed step in the development of hydrogen as an economic fuel or storage medium;

(2) “Department” means the Department of Energy; and

(3) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.


Amendments

1996—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104–271, § 101(a), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: “to direct the Secretary to prepare a comprehensive 5-year comprehensive program management plan that will identify and resolve critical technical issues necessary for the realization of a domestic capability to produce, distribute, and use hydrogen economically within the shortest time practicable;”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104–271, § 101(b), added par. (2) and redesignated former par. (2) as (3).

Short Title of 1996 Amendment

Section 1 of Pub. L. 104–271 provided that: “This Act [enacting section 7238 of this title, amending this section and sections 12402 to 12407, 12408, and 13436 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 7238, 12403, and 13436 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Hydrogen Future Act of 1996’.”
§ 12402. Report to Congress

(a) Not later than January 1, 1999, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a detailed report on the status and progress of the programs authorized under this chapter.

(b) A report under subsection (a) of this section shall include, in addition to any views and recommendations of the Secretary—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the programs authorized under this chapter, to be prepared and submitted to the Secretary by the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel established under section 12407 of this title; and

(2) recommendations of the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel for any improvements in the program that are needed, including recommendations for additional legislation.


Amendments


§ 12403. Hydrogen research and development

(a) Program

The Secretary shall conduct a hydrogen research and development program relating to production, storage, transportation, and use of hydrogen, with the goal of enabling the private sector to demonstrate the technical feasibility of using hydrogen for industrial, residential, transportation, and utility applications.

(b) Research

In conducting the program authorized by this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) give particular attention to developing an understanding and resolution of critical technical issues preventing the introduction of hydrogen into the marketplace;

(2) initiate or accelerate existing research in critical technical issues that will contribute to the development of more economic hydrogen production and use, including, but not limited to, critical technical issues with respect to production (giving priority to those production techniques that use renewable energy resources as their primary source of energy for hydrogen production), liquefaction, transmission, distribution, storage, and use (including use of hydrogen in surface transportation); and

(3) survey private sector hydrogen activities and take steps to ensure that research and development activities under this section do not displace or compete with the privately funded hydrogen research and development activities of United States industry.

(c) Innovative energy technologies

The Secretary is authorized to evaluate any reasonable new or improved technology, including basic research on highly innovative energy technologies, that could lead or contribute to the development of economic hydrogen production, storage, and utilization.
(d) Renewable energy systems; hybrid systems

The Secretary is authorized to evaluate any reasonable new or improved technology that could lead or contribute to, or demonstrate the use of, advanced renewable energy systems or hybrid systems for use in isolated communities that currently import diesel fuel as the primary fuel for electric power production.

(e) Information

The Secretary is authorized to arrange for tests and demonstrations and to disseminate to researchers and developers information, data, and other materials necessary to support the research and development activities authorized under this section and other efforts authorized under this chapter, consistent with section 12405 of this title.

(f) Federal funding

The Secretary shall carry out the research and development activities authorized under this section only through the funding of research and development proposals submitted by interested persons according to such procedures as the Secretary may require and evaluate on a competitive basis using peer review. Such funding shall be in the form of a grant agreement, procurement contract, or cooperative agreement (as those terms are used in chapter 63 of title 31).

(g) Non-Federal funding

The Secretary shall not consider a proposal submitted by a person from industry unless the proposal contains a certification that reasonable efforts to obtain non-Federal funding for the entire cost of the project have been made, and that such non-Federal funding could not be reasonably obtained. As appropriate, the Secretary shall require a commitment from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the development portion of such a proposal.

(h) Prohibition on duplicative efforts

The Secretary shall not carry out any activities under this section that unnecessarily duplicate activities carried out elsewhere by the Federal Government or industry.

(i) Federal funding consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

The Secretary shall establish, after consultation with other Federal agencies, terms and conditions under which Federal funding will be provided under this chapter that are consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 3511 (d)(12) of title 19.


Amendments

1996—Pub. L. 104–271 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which stated in subsec. (a) the Secretary was to conduct a research and development program for development of a domestic hydrogen fuel production capability; subsec. (b) attention was to be given to research of critical technical issues; subsec. (c) renewable energy priority; subsec. (d) new technologies; and subsec. (e) gathering and dissemination of information to support research and development efforts.

Fuel Cells

Title II of Pub. L. 104–271 provided that:

“SEC. 201. INTEGRATION OF FUEL CELLS WITH HYDROGEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.

“(a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 9, 1996], and subject to the availability of appropriations made specifically for this section, the Secretary of Energy shall solicit proposals for projects to prove the feasibility of integrating fuel cells with—

“(1) photovoltaic systems for hydrogen production; or

“(2) systems for hydrogen production from solid waste via gasification or steam reforming.
“(b) Each proposal submitted in response to the solicitation under this section shall be evaluated on a competitive gas is [basis] using peer review. The Secretary is not required to make an award under this section in the absence of a meritorious proposals. [sic]

“(c) The Secretary shall give preference, in making an award under this section, to proposals that—

“(1) are submitted jointly from consortia including academic institutions, industry, State or local governments, and Federal laboratories; and

“(2) reflect proven experience and capability with technologies relevant to the systems described in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2).

“(d) In the case of a proposal involving development or demonstration, the Secretary shall require a commitment from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the development or demonstration portion of the proposal.

“(e) The Secretary shall establish, after consultation with other Federal agencies, terms and conditions under which Federal funding will be provided under this title that are consistent with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreement Act (19 U.S.C. 3511 (d)(12)).

“SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated, for activities under this section [title], a total of $50,000,000 for fiscal years 1997 and 1998, to remain available until September 30, 1999.”

§ 12404. Demonstrations

(a) Requirement

The Secretary shall conduct demonstrations of critical technologies, preferably in self-contained locations, so that technical and non-technical parameters can be evaluated to best determine commercial applicability of the technology.

(b) Small-scale demonstrations

Concurrently with activities conducted pursuant to section 12403 of this title, the Secretary shall conduct small-scale demonstrations of hydrogen technology at self-contained sites.

(c) Non-Federal funding

The Secretary shall require a commitment from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of any demonstration conducted under this section.


Amendments


§ 12405. Technology transfer program

(a) Program

The Secretary shall conduct a program designed to accelerate wider application of hydrogen production, storage, utilization, and other technologies available in near term as a result of aerospace experience as well as other research progress by transferring critical technologies to the private sector. The Secretary shall direct the program with the advice and assistance of the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel established under section 12407 of this title. The objective in seeking this advice is to increase participation of private industry in the demonstration of near commercial applications through cooperative research and development arrangements, joint ventures or other appropriate arrangements involving the private sector.

(b) Information
The Secretary, in carrying out the program authorized by subsection (a) of this section, shall—

(1) undertake an inventory and assessment of hydrogen technologies and their commercial capability to economically produce, store, or utilize hydrogen in aerospace, transportation, electric utilities, petrochemical, chemical, merchant hydrogen, and other industrial sectors; and

(2) develop a National Aeronautics Space Administration, Department of Energy, and industry information exchange program to improve technology transfer for—

(A) application of aerospace experience by industry;

(B) application of research progress by industry and aerospace;

(C) application of commercial capability of industry by aerospace; and

(D) expression of industrial needs to research organizations.

The information exchange program may consist of workshops, publications, conferences, and a data base for the use by the public and private sectors. The Secretary shall also foster the exchange of generic, nonproprietary information and technology, developed pursuant to this chapter, among industry, academia, and the Federal Government, to help the United States economy attain the economic benefits of this information and technology.


Amendments

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104–271 inserted at end “The Secretary shall also foster the exchange of generic, nonproprietary information and technology, developed pursuant to this chapter, among industry, academia, and the Federal Government, to help the United States economy attain the economic benefits of this information and technology.”

§ 12406. Coordination and consultation

(a) Secretary’s responsibility

The Secretary shall have overall management responsibility for carrying out programs under this chapter. In carrying out such programs, the Secretary, consistent with such overall management responsibility—

(1) shall use the expertise of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Transportation; and

(2) may use the expertise of any other Federal agency in accordance with subsection (b) of this section in carrying out any activities under this chapter, to the extent that the Secretary determines that any such agency has capabilities which would allow such agency to contribute to the purpose of this chapter.

(b) Assistance

The Secretary may, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, obtain the assistance of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Executive branch of the Federal Government upon written request, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise and with the consent of such department, agency, or instrumentality. Each such request shall identify the assistance the Secretary deems necessary to carry out any duty under this chapter.

(c) Consultation

The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel established under section 12407 of this title in carrying out his authorities pursuant to this chapter.
§ 12407. Technical panel

(a) Establishment

There is hereby established the Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel (the “technical panel”), to advise the Secretary on the programs under this chapter.

(b) Membership

The technical panel shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall be comprised of such representatives from domestic industry, universities, professional societies, government laboratories, financial, environmental, and other organizations as the Secretary deems appropriate based on his assessment of the technical and other qualifications of such representatives. Appointments to the technical panel shall be made within 90 days after November 15, 1990. The technical panel shall have a chairman, who shall be elected by the members from among their number.

(c) Cooperation

The heads of the departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Executive branch of the Federal Government shall cooperate with the technical panel in carrying out the requirements of this section and shall furnish to the technical panel such information as the technical panel deems necessary to carry out this section.

(d) Review

The technical panel shall review and make any necessary recommendations to the Secretary on the following items—

(1) the implementation and conduct of programs under this chapter; and

(2) the economic, technological, and environmental consequences of the deployment of hydrogen production and use systems.

(e) Support

The Secretary shall provide such staff, funds and other support as may be necessary to enable the technical panel to carry out the functions described in this section.

Footnotes

1 See References in Text note below.


References in Text

This chapter, the first time appearing in subsec. (a)(2), was in the original “this title”, and was translated as reading “this Act” meaning Pub. L. 101–566, to reflect the probable intent of Congress, because Pub. L. 101–566 is not divided into titles.

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Amendments

1996—Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 104–271 struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “comments on and recommendations for improvements in the comprehensive 5-year program management plan required under section 12402 of this title.”

Termination of Advisory Panels

Advisory panels established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a panel established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such panel is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case
There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this chapter (in addition to any amounts made available for such purposes under other Acts)—

(1) $3,000,000 for the fiscal year 1992;
(2) $7,000,000 for the fiscal year 1993;
(3) $10,000,000 for the fiscal year 1994;
(4) $14,500,000 for fiscal year 1996;
(5) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 1997;
(6) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 1998;
(7) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;
(8) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and
(9) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.


Amendments