

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9613

To update the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in the licensing and oversight of nuclear reactor facilities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To update the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in the licensing and oversight of nuclear reactor facilities, 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 “Nuclear Advisory Com-  
5       mittee Reform Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29 of the Atomic Energy  
8       Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2039) is amended—

9               (1) by striking “There is” and inserting the fol-  
10       lowing:

1 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is”;

2 (2) by inserting “(referred to in this section as  
3 the ‘Committee’).” after “Reactor Safeguards”;

4 (3) by striking “consisting of” and all that fol-  
5 lows; and

6 (4) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall consist of  
8 a maximum of 15 members, to be appointed by the Com-  
9 mission, who shall represent a diverse background of tech-  
10 nical expertise relevant to the mission of the Commission.

11 “(c) TERMS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
13 graph (2), the Commission may appoint a member  
14 of the Committee for not more than 2 terms of 4  
15 years each.

16 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Commission may ap-  
17 point a member of the Committee for more than 2  
18 terms if the Commission determines that there is a  
19 compelling need for the member’s continued service.

20 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall  
21 apply with respect to members appointed after the  
22 date of enactment of the Nuclear Advisory Com-  
23 mittee Reform Act.

24 “(d) COMMITTEE ACTIONS.—The Committee shall  
25 take the following actions:

1           “(1) Review applications and submit reports in  
2 accordance with section 182 b.

3           “(2) Advise the Commission, as specifically re-  
4 quested by the Commission, with respect to—

5                 “(A) the hazards of proposed or existing  
6 reactor facilities; and

7                 “(B) the adequacy of proposed reactor  
8 safety standards.

9           “(3) Perform such other duties as the Commis-  
10 sion may specifically request.

11          “(e) FOCUS OF COMMITTEE.—In taking an action  
12 pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (d),  
13 the Committee shall, to the extent practicable, focus on  
14 issues that—

15                 “(1) directly relate to reactor design;

16                 “(2) are safety significant;

17                 “(3) are novel; and

18                 “(4) have not been previously acted on by the  
19 Committee.

20          “(f) POLICIES FOR EFFICIENT AND TIMELY AC-  
21 TION.—The Commission shall maintain and, if necessary,  
22 modify policies to ensure efficient and timely action by the  
23 Committee, including efficient and timely coordination be-  
24 tween the Committee and staff of the Commission.

25          “(g) PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMITTEE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may pro-  
2           pose to the Commission that the Committee take an  
3           action pursuant to subsection (d).

4           “(2) COMMISSION REQUEST REQUIRED.—The  
5           Committee may not take an action proposed under  
6           paragraph (1) unless the Commission specifically re-  
7           quests the Committee take the action pursuant to  
8           subsection (d).

9           “(h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall des-  
10          ignate 1 member of the Committee as the Chairperson of  
11          the Committee.

12          “(i) PER DIEM.—The members of the Committee  
13          shall receive—

14                 “(1) a per diem compensation for each day  
15                 spent in meetings, conferences, or other work of the  
16                 Committee; and

17                 “(2) compensation for necessary traveling or  
18                 other expenses while engaged in the work of the  
19                 Committee.

20          “(j) APPLICABILITY.—Section 163 shall apply to the  
21          Committee.”.

22          (b) LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW.—Section 182 b.  
23          of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2232(b))  
24          is amended to read as follows:

1           “b. REVIEW BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR  
2 SAFEGUARDS.—The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safe-  
3 guards established under section 29 shall—

4           “(1) if the Commission specifically requests, re-  
5 view—

6           “(A) an application for a license under sec-  
7 tion 103 or subsection a., b., or c. of section  
8 104; and

9           “(B) an application for an amendment to  
10 a license issued under section 103 or subsection  
11 a., b., or c. of section 104; and

12           “(2) submit to the Commission a report with  
13 respect to a review carried out under paragraph (1),  
14 which shall be made part of the record of the appli-  
15 cable application and available to the public, except  
16 to the extent that security classification prevents dis-  
17 closure.”.

18           (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19           (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 163 of  
20 the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2203) is  
21 amended—

22           (A) by striking “members of the General  
23 Advisory committee established pursuant to sec-  
24 tion 26 and the”; and

1 (B) by striking “sections 281, 283, or  
2 284” and inserting “sections 203, 205, or  
3 207”.

4 (2) TEMPORARY OPERATING LICENSE.—Section  
5 192 a. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C.  
6 2242(a)) is amended—

7 (A) by striking “Safeguards required by  
8 section 182 b.,” and inserting “Safeguards sub-  
9 mitted under section 182 b. (if applicable);”;  
10 and

11 (B) by striking “and the Nuclear Regu-  
12 latory Commission staff’s first supplement to  
13 the report prepared in response to the report of  
14 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
15 for the facility” and inserting “, and the Nu-  
16 clear Regulatory Commission staff’s first sup-  
17 plement to the report prepared in response to  
18 the report of the Advisory Committee on Reac-  
19 tor Safeguards for the facility (if applicable)”.

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