

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9614

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide compensation authority for certain career appointees, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide compensation authority for certain career appointees, 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 “NRC Staff Pay Align-  
5 ment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPENSATION AUTHORITY FOR CAREER AP-**  
7 **POINTEES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 161B of the Atomic En-  
9 ergy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201b) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)  
2 as subsections (e) through (i), respectively;

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5           “(d) COMPENSATION AUTHORITY FOR CAREER AP-  
6 PPOINTEES.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
8 provision of law, the Chairman may fix the com-  
9 pensation of a career appointee at an annual rate of  
10 basic pay that is not greater than 110 percent of the  
11 maximum annual rate of basic pay for Senior Execu-  
12 tive Service positions within the Commission estab-  
13 lished under section 5382 of title 5, United States  
14 Code.

15           “(2) APPLICABILITY.—The authority to fix the  
16 compensation of a career appointee under paragraph  
17 (1) shall apply regardless of when the career ap-  
18 ppointee was appointed.

19           “(3) EFFECT ON CERTAIN CERTIFICATION.—  
20 The exercise of the authority to fix the compensation  
21 of a career appointee under paragraph (1) may not  
22 affect the certification of any performance appraisal  
23 system of the Commission under section 5307(d) of  
24 title 5, United States Code.

1           “(4) CAREER APPOINTEE DEFINED.—In this  
2 subsection, the term ‘career appointee’ has the  
3 meaning given such term in section 3132(a) of title  
4 5, United States Code.”;

5           (3) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), in  
6 paragraph (2)(C)—

7           (A) in clause (ii)—

8                   (i) in each of subclauses (I) and (III),  
9 by striking “subsection (g)(1)” each place  
10 it appears and inserting “subsection  
11 (h)(1)”; and

12                   (ii) in each of subclauses (II) and  
13 (IV), by striking “subsection (g)(2)” each  
14 place it appears and inserting “subsection  
15 (h)(2)”; and

16           (B) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the  
17 end;

18           (C) by redesignating clause (v) as clause  
19 (vi); and

20           (D) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22                   “(v) the total number of career ap-  
23 pointees that have their compensation fixed  
24 pursuant to subsection (d); and”;

25           (4) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated)—

1 (A) in each of paragraphs (1) and (3), by  
2 striking “subsections (a) and (b)” each place it  
3 appears and inserting “subsections (a), (b), and  
4 (d)”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or both  
6 subsections” and inserting “subsection (d), or  
7 any combination of those subsections”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by inserting “, or a career ap-  
10 pointee,” after “compensation of an em-  
11 ployee or other personnel serving in a cov-  
12 ered position”; and

13 (ii) by striking “subsection (a) or (b)”  
14 and inserting “subsection (a), (b), or (d)”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO GOV-  
16 ERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section  
17 502(b) of the ADVANCE Act of 2024 is amended by  
18 striking “subsections (a), (b), and (c)” each place it ap-  
19 pears and inserting “subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d)”.

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