

A Bill to Invest in SMRs to Revitalize Nuclear Energy Potential

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government shall invest \$10 billion in the research and
3 development of small modular reactors (SMRs) through a federal grant program
4 aiming to foster long-term public-private partnerships in nuclear energy.

5 **SECTION 2.** **A.** “Small modular reactors (SMRs)” are defined as advanced nuclear reactors
6 with a rated capacity of less than 300 electrical megawatts; and that can be
7 constructed and operated in combination with similar reactors at a single site.

8 **B.** “Research and development” are defined as efforts to create and innovate
9 new or existing SMR technologies through advancing design, testing, licensing
10 support, manufacturing methods, safety and efficiency, waste management,
11 and other methods with the goal of decarbonizing the domestic electricity grid.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Energy shall be tasked with overseeing the enforcement of
13 this legislation.

14 **A.** The DOE shall determine the eligibility of organizations in qualifying for the
15 grant program.

16 **B.** An organization is eligible for the grant program if they are a US-based
17 entity, including but not limited to private companies, accredited research
18 universities, and non-profits that conduct research and development as
19 defined in Section 2B. They must also submit an in-depth proposal for
20 review

21 **C.** The DOE shall also run comprehensive semi-annual audits to determine the
22 effectiveness of funding and has the right to withdraw funding if funds are
23 misused.

24 **D.** Additionally, funding may be allocated after 5 years based on the grant
25 program’s results.

26 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect FY 2027.

27 **SECTION 5** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lukas Shrestha, Newtown South High School