Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9614

[Report No. 119–]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

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

SEPTEMBER --, 2026

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

A BILL

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''NRC Staff Pay Alignment Act''.

SEC. 2. COMPENSATION AUTHORITY FOR CAREER APPOINTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 161B of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201b) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) COMPENSATION AUTHORITY FOR CAREER APPOINTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chairman may fix the compensation of a career appointee at an annual rate of basic pay that is not greater than 110 percent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay for Senior Executive Service positions within the Commission established under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) APPLICABILITY.—The authority to fix the compensation of a career appointee under paragraph

(1) shall apply regardless of when the career appointee was appointed.

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

''(4) CAREER APPOINTEE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'career appointee' has the meaning given such term in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code.'';

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

(A) in clause (ii)—

(i) in each of subclauses (I) and (III), by striking ''subsection (g)(1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (h)(1)''; and

(ii) in each of subclauses (II) and (IV), by striking ''subsection (g)(2)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (h)(2)'';

(B) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

(D) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

''(v) the total number of career appointees that have their compensation fixed pursuant to subsection (d); and''; and

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

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

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or both subsections'' and inserting ''subsection (d), or any combination of those subsections''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting '', or a career appointee,'' after ''compensation of an employee or other personnel serving in a covered position''; and

(ii) by striking ''subsection (a) or (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a), (b), or (d)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section 502(b) of the ADVANCE Act of 2024 is amended by

striking ''subsections (a), (b), and (c)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d)''.