# Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5549

**[Report No. 119–]**

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for more efficient hearings on nuclear facility construction applications, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. VEASEY) 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 for more efficient hearings on nuclear facility construction applications, 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 ''Efficient Nuclear Licensing Hearings Act''.

**SEC. 2. UPDATING HEARING PROCEDURES.**

(a) HEARINGS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 189 a. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2239(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''In any proceeding under this Act'' and inserting the following:

''(i) In any proceeding under this Act''; and

(B) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking ''The Commission shall hold a hearing'' and all that follows through ''upon a determination by the Commission that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration.'' and inserting the following:

''(ii) The Commission may, in the absence of a request for a hearing by any person whose interest may be affected, issue a construction permit, an operating license, a combined construction permit and operating license, an amendment to a construction permit, an amendment to an operating license, or an amendment to a combined con-

struction permit and operating license under section 103, 104 b., 104 c., or 185 b. for a facility or a testing facility, without a hearing, but upon thirty days notice and publication once in the Federal Register of its intent to do so. The Commission may dispense with such thirty days notice and publication with respect to any application for an amendment to a construction permit, an amendment to an operating license, or an amendment to a combined construction permit and operating license upon a determination by the Commission that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration.

''(iii) The Commission shall use informal adjudicatory procedures for any hearing held by the Commission pursuant to this subparagraph.'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)—

(A) by inserting ''informal'' before ''hearing procedures''; and

(B) by striking '', whether informal or formal adjudicatory,''; and

(3) in the second sentence of paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''required hearing'' and inserting ''hearing held by the Commission under this section''.

(b) CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND OPERATING LICENSES.—Section 185 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2235(b)) is amended by striking ''After

holding a public hearing under section 189 a. (1)(A),'' and inserting ''After the thirty days notice and publication period or holding a hearing, as applicable, under section 189 a. (1)(A),''.

(c) LICENSING OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES.—Section 193(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2243(b)) is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''on the record''; and

(B) by inserting ''if a person whose interest may be affected by such construction and operation has requested a hearing regarding the licensing of the construction and operation of the facility'' after ''and 63''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Such hearing'' and inserting ''If a hearing is held under paragraph (1), the hearing''.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to all applications and proceedings pending before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on or after the date of enactment of this section.