

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2026

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

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 POINTEES.—

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 pointee 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”; 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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