

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION
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The American Clean Energy Leadership Act, S. 1462
U.S. Senate

The American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 (ACELA) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico on July 16, 2009. The primary purpose of this legislation is to effectively enhance the energy security of the United States through the development of clean energy technology, a stronger green workforce and increased energy efficiency on a national scale. This bill, while similar in nature to the American Clean Energy and Security Act which was recently passed by the House of Representatives, is an original piece of legislation and is entirely independent of the ACES Act. The American Clean Energy Leadership Act has been reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for consideration by the full Senate. On this page you will find information about the proposals outlined in the ACELA as it was reported out of Committee.

Title I: Clean Energy Technology

This title establishes a Clean Energy Deployment Administration, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, to finance and support the use of clean energy technology by businesses and industry in the United States. Additionally, this clause addresses issues related to electricity transmission and would create a national interstate transmission siting policy. This section also establishes a cumulative 15 percent Renewable Electricity Standard over the next 30 years and calls for an analysis of the impact of energy development and production on domestic water resources. Finally, this title promotes advance vehicle technologies through increased research and pilot programs.

Title II: Enhanced Energy Efficiency

Under the provisions outlined in this section, regulations for the promotion of increased energy efficiency in commercial and industrial manufacturing are established and energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment are delineated. This portion of the bill also addresses the need for greater energy efficiency standards in building codes for residential, commercial, and federal buildings alike. The final segment of this title sets a national electric system efficiency goal and cites the use of demand response technology as a means of achieving this goal. This portion of the legislation would also reauthorize funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program.

Title III: Improved Energy Security

In an effort to strengthen the energy security of the United States, this title aims to prevent cyber attacks on our electrical infrastructure. Additionally, this section calls for increased research into nuclear waste disposal options and nuclear fuel recycling programs. This title would also establish a 30 million barrel petroleum reserve for use in the case of a devastating natural

disaster and transfers the authority to draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from the President to the Secretary of Energy.

In addition, the language of the bill as it currently stands would open the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas leasing and would mandate an inventory of resources in the Outer Continental Shelf, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This title would push for research into the possibility of developing renewable energy resources on public lands, establish guidelines for the large-scale commercial application of long-term geologic storage of carbon dioxide and would authorize the development of an energy action plan for each of the United States' incorporated territories.

Title IV: Energy Innovation and Workforce Development

This portion of the bill promotes extensive research into, and analysis of, potential renewable energy resources. It also improves existing federal programs such as the Advanced Research Project Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) and outlines a number of provisions to encourage the development of an energy workforce. Under this title, workforce training programs and energy career academies would receive an infusion of funding and administrative support through various offices within the Department of Energy.

Title V: Energy Markets

The proposals in this section of the legislation would increase the authority of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to collect data and regulate the holdings of large-scale oil traders. Additionally, this section would establish a Financial Market Analysis Office within the EIA and would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the authority to prevent manipulation of electricity or natural gas markets.

Title VI: Policy Studies and Reports

This portion of the bill directs various departments and agencies to prepare reports on a number of priorities and objectives. Further information on this, and all of the preceding sections of the bill can be found on [THOMAS](#), the public website of the Library of Congress.