

H.R. 3277 – Energy Emergency Leadership Act

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Background:

In 2022, the number of risks to critical infrastructure escalated due to the increase in cyber ransom crimes, threats from nation-state actors, and the War in Ukraine. There has been a rash of bad actors shutting down energy grids for hundreds of people by destroying transformers at power substations and conducting cyber-attacks on our country's pipeline infrastructure.

Protecting the web of power resources that ensure the health and wellness of our country and economy is critical and our government needs the resources to protect these energy systems from threats that will arise. The Energy Emergency Leadership Act will help support the Department of Energy (DOE) in its efforts to coordinate, prepare, and respond to all hazards to the supply of energy, including cybersecurity.

This bill passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee 48-0 in May of 2023 and has passed the House in bipartisan fashion since the 116th Congress.

What the Energy Emergency Leadership Act does:

- Amends the Department of Energy Organization Act to elevate the leadership of DOE's emergency response and cybersecurity functions to the Senate-confirmed assistant secretary level.
- Directs this assistant secretary position to work in collaboration with other federal agencies on matters related to energy security and emergencies.