



## **H.R. 2850 – Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007**

### **Floor Situation**

H.R. 2850 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA) on June 25, 2007. The House Committee on Science and Technology approved the bill as amended on June 11, 2007.

H.R. 2850 is expected to be considered on the floor on September 4, 2007.

*Note: Similar legislation, H.R. 1215, passed the House by voice vote in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, it was never considered by the Senate.*

### **Background**

The term green chemistry refers to chemistry and chemical engineering that focuses on creating chemical products and processes that reduce the generation and use of hazardous substances. An example of green chemistry is the use of supercritical carbon dioxide, a benign solvent, in the dry cleaning process instead of toxic perchloroethylene.

### **Summary**

H.R. 2850 establishes a Green Chemistry Research and Development program to promote and coordinate Federal green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer activities. The program would provide merit-based grants for researchers as well as grants for collaborative research and development partnerships among universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations. The bill authorizes \$165 million in additional funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for these grants and research activities.

The bill creates an interagency working group, which includes the NSF, the NIST, the Department of Energy, and the EPA, to oversee the program. The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Assistant Administrator for research and development at the EPA would serve as co-chairs of this working group.

H.R. 2850 requires the interagency working group to submit a report to Congress detailing federally funded green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer activities. The report must also include an analysis of the progress toward the goals and priorities of the program.

The bill requires NSF, in coordination with the National Research Council, to conduct a study on the commercialization of green chemistry and the obstacles to successful commercialization of green chemistry in the U.S. and abroad.

**Cost**

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 2850 would cost \$18 million in 2008 and \$181 million over the 2008-2012 period.

[CBO Cost Estimate - H.R. 2850, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007](#)

**Additional Information**

<http://www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/>

**Staff Contact**

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