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BILL ANALYSIS | Energy & Environment

Analysis of Florida H.B. 1461, an Act Relating to Advanced Nuclear Reactors

TOPLINE POINTS

- Nuclear power provides safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to millions of Americans.
- Florida's H.B. 1461, which has been referred to the Senate, creates a state-level deployment pathway for advanced nuclear reactors in Florida.
- The bill provides authority to the Florida Public Service Commission and other agencies to foster the growth, research, and development of advanced nuclear reactors and place safeguards for the public.

SUMMARY

Florida's H.B. 1461 positions Florida to lead in the development of advanced nuclear for reliable, around-the-clock generation. Leadership in advanced nuclear energy can help Florida strengthen its electric power grid, support investment in affordable, reliable power, and protect the existing ~3.7 GW nuclear fleet, and help moderate electricity costs that spiked during the Biden Administration.

8 AMERICA FIRST WINS IN H.B. 1461

1. Florida state policy now explicitly aims to encourage domestic advanced nuclear energy "research, development, demonstration, and application."
2. The bill defines "advanced nuclear reactors" broadly and includes nuclear fusion, which keeps the door open for future innovations. Such an approach reflects an America First posture by ensuring that Florida does not prematurely foreclose emerging technologies and by helping position the United States to lead in the next generation of energy development.
3. The bill assigns authority to relevant state agencies to establish guidelines and criteria regarding the safe transportation and possession of nuclear materials used to research, develop, and build advanced nuclear reactors. This brings clarity to innovators while ensuring public safety. In turn, the bill supports an America First framework by giving American developers clearer rules, encouraging domestic investment, and enabling faster deployment without compromising safety.

4. The bill also incorporates advanced nuclear into the State of Florida's utility siting planning process for approval by the Florida Public Service Commission, which obliges utilities to account for current and planned nuclear power. This advances an America First approach because it treats advanced nuclear as a serious part of Florida's future power mix.
5. The bill provides relief to new advanced reactors (with a capacity of 75 MWe or less) that contribute to power grid stability as additions to existing power plants, replacements for existing power plants, or to offset retiring existing power plants. This supports the America First reliability agenda by making it easier to replace retiring generation with dependable new American power, thereby strengthening grid reliability.
6. The bill exempts advanced reactors that won't be connected to the state grid from the Florida Public Service Commission's "determination of need" and "statement of issues" requirements to provide more space for innovation and grid buildout. This furthers an America First objective by removing unnecessary barriers to private-sector energy development and making it easier to build self-supplied power for industry, defense, and other strategic uses.
7. The bill allows permit reciprocity between Florida and both other states and federal agencies where their standards are no less stringent than Florida's. This measure keeps important safety rules in place while streamlining the licensing process.
8. The bill adds nuclear energy to Florida's definition of "clean" energy, which acknowledges that nuclear energy is a reliable generator of zero-emission baseload power.