

Electrify Africa Act of 2015 Section-by-Section Summary

Sec. 1 Short Title. The Electrify Africa Act of 2015.

Sec. 2 Purpose. To improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

Title I – Policies to Improve Access to Power in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sec. 101 Statement of Policy. Declares the United States to support efforts to, in partnership with sub-Saharan countries, to promote first time access to electricity and power services for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020, encourage installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts, encourage necessary in-country reforms, and promote an all-of the above energy development strategy for sub-Saharan African that includes the use of oil, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, and geothermal power, and other sources of energy, as appropriate.

Sec. 102 Development of a Comprehensive, Multiyear Strategy. Requires the Administration to create a multiyear strategy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement national power strategies and develop an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide access to sufficient reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in order to reduce poverty and drive economic growth and job creation. Also requires the Administration to issue a detailed report on its planned efforts to implement the aforementioned strategy.

Sec. 103 Prioritization of Efforts and Assistance For Power Projects. States that USAID, US Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation should prioritize and expedited institutional efforts and assistance for power projects and markets in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sec. 104 Leveraging International Support. States that U.S. representatives to appropriate international bodies should encourage those bodies to increase efforts to promote investment in the sub-Saharan electricity sector and utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

Sec. 105 Progress Report. Requires the President, within three years of this bill's enactment, to submit to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and post in digital form, a report detailing progress towards the bill's goals.

Title II Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Sec. 201 Extension. Authorizes continued operation of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for the three year focus of this bill (until 2018).

Section 202 Transparency. Requires OPIC to publish in digital form measureable development impacts of its investments and the amount, type, location, and duration of each commitment with digital links to relevant reports and displays on an interactive map.

Section 203 Board Composition. Requires a bipartisan board, in that no more than five of eight Directors may be from the same political party.

Section 204 Advisory Council. Establishes a temporary investment advisory council to assist OPIC in developing energy programs in sub-Saharan Africa

Section 205 Temporary Authority for Local Currency Guarantees. Temporarily allows for OPIC to issue local currency guarantees to create more flexibility in areas where local subsidiaries of foreign financial institutions are the only partners that can work with OPIC.

Section 206 Inspector General. Requires the appointment of an OPIC Inspector General.

Section 207 Systems. Allows OPIC to utilize appropriate funds for systems infrastructure improvements that could include cybersecurity improvements.

Section 208 Annual Consumer Satisfaction Survey and Report. Requires OPIC to conduct a survey of clients on the level of satisfaction and a report on plans to revise operations based on concerns raised.