

***The American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009***  
***(as reported by the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment)***  
**Section-by-section summary**

Section 1 – Short Title

Section 2 – Findings

Section 3 – Improving the Reliability of Domestic Medical Isotope Supply

- Provides \$163 million for the Secretary of Energy to support projects for the domestic production of molybdenum-99, without the use of highly enriched uranium.
- Projects will be selected by the Secretary of Energy based on three criteria:
  - How quickly the project can begin supply molybdenum-99 for American patients
  - The quantity of molybdenum-99 that the project will be able to supply
  - The cost of the proposed project
- Establishes a new program at DOE to make available low enriched uranium to domestic molybdenum-99 producers. DOE will retain responsibility for final disposition of radioactive waste. This is similar to how DOE provides fuel to university research reactors.

Section 4 – Exports

- Prohibits export of highly enriched uranium from the United States for medical isotope production 7 years after enactment of the Act.
- The period can be extended by an additional 4 years if the Secretary of Energy certifies:
  - there is insufficient supply of molybdenum-99 produced without the use of highly enriched uranium available to US patients; and
  - that US export of highly enriched uranium will ensure additional molybdenum-99 supply for US patients.
- The restriction of HEU export licenses can be temporarily suspended for up to 12 months if:
  - there is a critical shortage in the supply of molybdenum-99 available to satisfy domestic United States medical isotope needs;
  - the Secretary of Energy certifies to the Congress that the export of U.S.-origin HEU for the purposes of medical isotope production is the only effective temporary means to increase the supply of molybdenum-99 necessary to meet United States medical isotope needs during that period; and
  - Congress passes a Joint Resolution approving the temporary suspension.

Section 5 – Report on Disposition of Exports

- Requires a report from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the current disposition of previous exports of highly enriched uranium.

Section 6 – Domestic Medical Isotope Production

- Allows the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue a license for the use of highly enriched uranium as a target for medical isotope production only if:
  - there is no low enriched uranium target that will work in that reactor;
  - the reactor operator has agreed to convert to the use of low enriched uranium targets when able; and
  - the United States government is actively supporting the development of low enriched uranium targets for use in that reactor.

Section 7 – Annual Department of Energy Reports

- Requires annual reports from the Department of Energy for 6 years on the Department's actions and progress in supporting the production of molybdenum-99 in the United States.

Section 8 – National Academy of Sciences Report

- Requires a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the production and utilization of molybdenum-99 and other medical isotopes coproduced with molybdenum-99 to be provided to Congress 5 years after enactment of the Act.

Section 9 - Definitions