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CQ TODAY
June 6, 2007 - 4:06 p.m.

House Passes 'H-Prize' Bill for Energy Research

By Kathryn A. Wolfe, CQ Staff

The government would offer a series of cash prizes for innovations in hydrogen energy under a bill the House passed Wednesday.

The bill (HR 632), by Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill., would be intended to bring clean-burning hydrogen-powered vehicles closer to reality. It passed by a 408-8 vote. "The future possibilities of this energy source are enormous," Lipinski said.

Hydrogen emits no pollutants when burned, but its storage and transportation present technological

The banner has a blue background. On the left is the U.S. Capitol dome, and on the right is a classical building with columns. The text "CQ LEGISLATIVE IMPACT" is written in large, red, serif font across the middle. Below it, in white, is the text "See how pending bills would impact current laws." Further down, in yellow, is "Shows you the connections between:" followed by "Bill Text, U.S. Code & Public Laws" in white. At the bottom right, in red, is "Request your free trial" with a red arrow pointing right.

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challenges.

The government-sponsored competition, which would be called the “H-Prize,” is modeled after the programs of the Ansari X Prize Foundation, which gives multimillion-dollar awards to teams that achieve specific scientific and engineering goals.

Lipinski pointed out that such prizes continue a tradition dating back to famed aviator Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh, competing against other aviators, attempted his most well-known feat — the first successful solo, nonstop flight between New York City and Paris — in an effort to win a \$25,000 purse.

Every two years, H-Prizes worth \$1 million would be given in four categories: production, storage, distribution and

utilization. One \$4 million prize would be awarded for hydrogen vehicles. At the end of 10 years, a \$10 million grand prize would be given for a “transformational advance in hydrogen energy technology.”

Lipinski’s measure would authorize \$52 million total for the competition, including \$2 million in administrative costs, from fiscal 2008 through 2017. The Energy Department would be directed to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer the contest and set criteria for the prizes.

The House Science and Technology Committee approved the bill May 23.

Source: **CQ Today**
Round-the-clock coverage of news from Capitol Hill.
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