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Sommario/riassunto	<p>On August 2, 2007, Congress passed the America COMPETES(Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology Education and Science) Act (H.R. 2272), which the President signed into law (P.L. 110-69) on August 9, 2007. The act responds to concerns that the United States may not be able to compete economically with other nations in the future due to insufficient investment today in science and technology research and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce development. A similar concern had led President Bush to announce the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) in January 2006 during his State of the Union address. The America COMPETES Act authorizes an increase in the nation's investment in science and engineering research and in STEM education from kindergarten to graduate school and postdoctoral education. The act also establishes the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and Discovery Science and Engineering Innovation Institutes. The act authorizes increases in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) laboratories, and the Department of Energy Office of Science over FY2008-FY2010. If maintained, the increases would double the budgets of those agencies over seven years. The Administration's ACI also proposes increases in these budgets, but at a</p>

rate that would double them over 10 years instead of 7. Within DOE, ARPA-E is designed to support transformational energy technology research projects with the goal of enhancing the economic and energy security of the U.S. The effort is based on that of the DOD Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The Administration and others support the conceptual goal of ARPA-E, but questions whether or not the DARPA model can be used for the energy sector, and has concerns about it potentially redirecting funds from current DOE research activities.
