

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1684

To amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Spill Protec-
5 tion Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIABILITY OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF FOR-**
2 **EIGN OFFSHORE UNITS.**

3 Section 1002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33
4 U.S.C. 2702) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(e) FOREIGN OFFSHORE UNITS.—In any case in
7 which there is a discharge, or substantial threat of dis-
8 charge, of oil from a foreign offshore unit that reaches
9 or threatens to reach the navigable waters or adjoining
10 shorelines or the exclusive economic zone, the owner or
11 operator of the facility—

12 “(1) is liable for the removal costs and damages
13 specified in subsection (b) that result from such inci-
14 dent; and

15 “(2) shall be treated as a responsible party with
16 respect to the incident for the purposes of this Act
17 in the same manner as a responsible party for an
18 offshore facility.”.

19 **SEC. 3. PENALTIES FOR DISCHARGE OF OIL FROM FOR-**
20 **EIGN OFFSHORE UNITS.**

21 Section 311(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
22 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(b)) is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

24 “(13) FOREIGN OFFSHORE UNITS.—

25 “(A) DISCHARGES OF OIL REACHING NAVI-
26 GABLE WATERS.—In any case in which there is

1 a discharge of oil from a foreign offshore unit
2 that reaches the navigable waters of the United
3 States, adjoining shorelines, or waters of the
4 contiguous zone—

5 “(i) the discharge shall be subject to
6 the prohibition in paragraph (3); and

7 “(ii) the owner or operator of the unit
8 shall be subject to the penalties established
9 under this subsection.

10 “(B) FOREIGN OFFSHORE UNIT DE-
11 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘foreign
12 offshore unit’ has the meaning given that term
13 in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990
14 (33 U.S.C. 2701).”.

15 **SEC. 4. APPLICABILITY.**

16 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
17 respect to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge,
18 of oil occurring after the date of enactment of this Act.

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