

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 665

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize additional lease sales to be added to an approved 5-year leasing program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2017

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize additional lease sales to be added to an approved 5-year leasing program.

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 “Unleashing American
5 Energy Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADDITION OF LEASE SALES TO 5-YEAR LEASING**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 18(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
9 Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(d)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “After” and
2 all that follows through “first occurs,” and inserting
3 “Except as provided in paragraph (4), after the leas-
4 ing program has been approved by the Secretary,”;
5 and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL LEASE
8 SALES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As the Secretary de-
10 termines to be appropriate and subject to the
11 considerations required under subsection (a)(2),
12 the Secretary may include in an approved leas-
13 ing program additional lease sales to be con-
14 ducted under the approved leasing program.

15 “(B) REVISION NOT REQUIRED.—The in-
16 clusion of any additional lease sales under sub-
17 paragraph (A) shall not be considered to be a
18 significant revision requiring reapproval of the
19 approved leasing program under subsection (e).

20 “(C) APPLICABLE LAW.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
22 vided in clause (ii), an individual lease sale
23 added to an approved leasing program
24 under subparagraph (A) shall be consid-
25 ered to be a major Federal action for pur-

1 poses of section 102(2)(C) of the National
2 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
3 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

4 “(ii) GULF OF MEXICO AREAS.—An
5 individual lease sale added to an approved
6 leasing program covering the Gulf of Mex-
7 ico Region of the outer Continental Shelf
8 shall not be considered to be a major Fed-
9 eral action for purposes of section
10 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental
11 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
12 4332(2)(C)).”.

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