

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7069

To direct the Secretary of Defense to assess and report on the water scarcity evaluation practices of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2020

Mr. CROW (for himself, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LAMBORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to assess and report on the water scarcity evaluation practices of the Department of Defense, 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 “DOD Water Assess-  
5 ment and Testing Enhanced Reporting Act of 2020” or  
6 the “WATER Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WATER SCARCITY EVAL-**  
2 **UATION PRACTICES.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,  
5 in coordination with the Secretaries of the military depart-  
6 ments, shall submit to Congress a report on the water  
7 scarcity evaluation practices used by the Department with  
8 respect to defense installations. Such a report shall in-  
9 clude—

10 (1) an analysis and determination of the value  
11 of developing a coordinated, enterprise-wide water  
12 scarcity assessment using leading practices com-  
13 pared to continuing individual service-level assess-  
14 ments;

15 (2) a justification for the assessment technique  
16 determined preferable under paragraph (1); and

17 (3) a proposed policy with respect to the water  
18 scarcity evaluation practices of the Department.

19 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF RECURRING ASSESSMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Based on the results of the  
21 report required under subsection (a), the Secretary  
22 of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of  
23 the military departments, shall develop and imple-  
24 ment a recurring water scarcity assessment at de-  
25 fense installations.

1           (2) FREQUENCY.—The recurring water scarcity  
2 assessment required under paragraph (1) shall be  
3 conducted not less frequently than once every 10  
4 years.

5           (3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-  
6 retary shall consult with all relevant entities, includ-  
7 ing as necessary adjacent communities, Tribes, and  
8 agricultural enterprises, as well as other Federal  
9 land managers, to understand the full scope of how  
10 water scarcity may impact an installation.

11          (4) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
12 submit to the congressional defense committees a re-  
13 port on the findings of each water scarcity assess-  
14 ment conducted under this subsection. Such report  
15 shall include—

16               (A) an identification of the availability of  
17 water, as of the date of the submittal of the re-  
18 port;

19               (B) an identification of projected future  
20 water availability;

21               (C) an account of all sources of water;

22               (D) the precise locations of all water iden-  
23 tified; and

24               (E) a comprehensive list of all locations.

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