

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1325

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Mr. BRADY (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 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 “More Energy More
5 Jobs Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE NEW FIVE-YEAR OIL AND**
2 **GAS LEASING PROGRAM.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
4 LEASING PROGRAMS.—Section 18(c) of the Outer Conti-
5 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
7 paragraphs (5) and (6); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—In pre-
11 paring each leasing program under this section, the
12 Secretary shall—

13 “(A) allow the Governor of a coastal State
14 to nominate for leasing under such program
15 areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are
16 adjacent to the waters of that State;

17 “(B) include each area nominated under
18 subparagraph (A) in the draft leasing program
19 under this section and consider leasing of such
20 areas as an alternative Federal action; and

21 “(C) include in development of the pro-
22 gram resource estimates that are available, and
23 develop resource estimates for the areas for
24 which such data are not available including for
25 the areas nominated under subparagraph (A).

1 “(3) INCLUSION OF STATE-NOMINATED
2 AREAS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
4 include in the final program issued under this
5 section each area nominated by a State under
6 paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines that
7 development in such area will best meet na-
8 tional energy needs and is consistent with the
9 principles set forth in subsection (a).

10 “(B) REPORT.—If the Secretary omits any
11 area nominated under paragraph (2), the Sec-
12 retary shall submit to the Governor that nomi-
13 nated the area and the Committee on Natural
14 Resources of the House of Representatives a re-
15 port detailing why oil and gas development in
16 such area do not best meet national energy
17 needs and is not consistent with the principles
18 set forth in subsection (a).

19 “(C) ALTERNATIVE VIEWS.—After sub-
20 mittal of the report required by subparagraph
21 (B), each such Governor shall be provided 60
22 days within which to offer alternative views on
23 why the Secretary’s findings are not consistent
24 with the principles set forth in subsection (a).

1 “(4) NOTICE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAN.—
2 The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register
3 a notice of the effectiveness of each oil and gas leas-
4 ing program issued under this section on the date
5 such program takes effect.”.

6 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO REGION.**

7 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
8 (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(i) ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO RE-
11 GION.—

12 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13 “(A) CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-
14 NING AREA.—The term ‘Central Gulf of Mexico
15 Planning Area’ has the meaning given the term
16 ‘Central Planning Area’ in section 102 of the
17 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006
18 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–432).

19 “(B) WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-
20 NING AREA.—The term ‘Western Gulf of Mex-
21 ico Planning Area’ means the Western Gulf of
22 Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental
23 Shelf, as designated in the document entitled
24 ‘Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental

1 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007–
2 2012’ and dated February 2006.

3 “(2) ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding
4 any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year
5 2022, the Secretary shall hold a minimum of 2 re-
6 gion-wide lease sales annually in the Gulf of Mexico
7 pursuant to this Act, each of which shall include
8 areas in—

9 “(A) the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning
10 Area; and

11 “(B) the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning
12 Area.

13 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
15 lease sales under paragraph (2), the Secretary
16 shall issue leases to the highest responsible
17 qualified bidder or bidders.

18 “(B) AREAS INCLUDED IN LEASE SALES.—
19 In carrying out the lease sales under paragraph
20 (2), the Secretary shall include in each lease
21 sale all unleased areas that are not subject to
22 restrictions as of the date of the lease sale.

23 “(4) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each
25 lease sale required under paragraph (2), the

1 Secretary shall conduct any environmental re-
2 views required by the National Environmental
3 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

4 “(B) DEADLINE.—

5 “(i) INDIVIDUAL REVIEW.—If the Sec-
6 retary conducts environmental reviews with
7 respect to a lease sale under subparagraph
8 (A) for each individual lease included in
9 the lease sale, the Secretary shall complete
10 all environmental reviews for the lease sale,
11 including by issuing a finding of no signifi-
12 cant impact or a record of decision, if ap-
13 plicable, in less than 365 calendar days.

14 “(ii) PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW.—If the
15 Secretary conducts a programmatic envi-
16 ronmental review with respect to a lease
17 sale under subparagraph (A) for all leases
18 under the lease sale, the Secretary shall
19 complete the programmatic environmental
20 review, including by issuing a finding of no
21 significant impact or a record of decision,
22 if applicable, in less than 180 calendar
23 days.

24 “(j) PERMITTING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sovereign con-
2 tracting rights and obligations, the Secretary shall
3 review and grant or deny in accordance with para-
4 graph (2) any application for a permit or other ap-
5 proval for offshore oil and natural gas exploration,
6 development, and production activities under a lease
7 issued pursuant to this Act by not later than the
8 earlier of—

9 “(A) 75 calendar days after the date on
10 which the application is received by the Bureau
11 of Ocean Energy Management or the Bureau of
12 Safety and Environmental Enforcement; or

13 “(B) any other applicable deadline re-
14 quired by law.

15 “(2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Absent clear grounds
17 for denial of an application for a permit or
18 other approval described in paragraph (1), the
19 Secretary shall grant the permit or approval.

20 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary de-
21 nies an application for a permit or other ap-
22 proval under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
23 shall provide to the applicant written notice ex-
24 plaining the grounds for the denial.”.

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