

Union Calendar No. 677

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7375

[Report No. 118–830]

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Ms. HAGEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 10, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 15, 2024]

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, 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 “Expression of Interest*
 5 *Sensibility Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FEE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.**

7 *(a) DEADLINE TO ISSUE LEASE.—Section 17(b)(1)(A)*
 8 *of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(A)) is*
 9 *amended by striking “the remainder of the bonus bid, if*
 10 *any,” and inserting “, as applicable, the remainder of the*
 11 *bonus bid, the fee for the expression of interest under sub-*
 12 *section (q)(2)(B),”.*

13 *(b) EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.—Section 17(q) of the*
 14 *Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(q)) is amended—*

15 *(1) in the heading, by striking “FEE FOR”;*

16 *(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-*
 17 *graph (3);*

18 *(3) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-*
 19 *lows:*

20 *“(1) SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTER-*
 21 *EST.—A person may, in accordance with procedures*
 22 *established by the Secretary to carry out this sub-*
 23 *section, submit an expression of interest in leasing*
 24 *land available for disposition under this section for*
 25 *exploration for, and development of, oil or gas.*

1 “(2) *ASSESSMENT OF FEES.*—

2 “(A) *NO BID.*—If land covered by an ex-
 3 pression of interest submitted under paragraph
 4 (1) is offered at a lease sale and no bid is re-
 5 ceived for such land, the Secretary shall assess at
 6 the time of the sale a fee for the expression of in-
 7 terest against the person that submitted the first
 8 expression of interest for the land.

9 “(B) *SUCCESSFUL BID.*—If land covered by
 10 an expression of interest submitted under para-
 11 graph (1) receives a successful bid at a lease sale,
 12 the Secretary shall assess a fee for the expression
 13 of interest against the successful bidder.”;

14 (4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by
 15 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
 16 (2)”; and

17 (5) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(4) *TERM.*—An expression of interest submitted
 19 under this section shall remain active for a term of
 20 not less than 5 years unless the land covered by the
 21 expression of interest is offered at a lease sale.”.

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