

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 937

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the cancellation of 6 existing leases and to ban all new leasing activities in the area off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 1997

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) 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 provide for the cancellation of 6 existing leases and to ban all new leasing activities in the area off the coast of Florida, 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 “Florida Coast Protec-
5 tion Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF LEASING ACTIVITY OFF THE**
 2 **COAST OF FLORIDA.**

3 Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
 4 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking “The Sec-
 6 retary” and inserting “except as provided in sub-
 7 section (p), the Secretary”; and

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

9 “(p) PROHIBITION OF LEASING ACTIVITY OFF THE
 10 COAST OF FLORIDA.—

11 “(1) DEFINITION OF PRELEASING ACTIVITY.—

12 In this subsection:

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘preleasing
 14 activity’ means an activity relating to a lease
 15 that is conducted before a lease sale is held.

16 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘preleasing
 17 activity’ includes—

18 “(i) the scheduling of a lease;

19 “(ii) the making of a request for in-
 20 dustry interest;

21 “(iii) the issuance of a call for infor-
 22 mation or a nomination;

23 “(iv) the identification of an area for
 24 prospective leasing;

25 “(v) the publication of a draft or final
 26 environmental impact statement;

1 “(vi) the issuance of a notice of sale;

2 and

3 “(vii) the performance of any form of
4 rotary drilling in a prospective lease area.

5 “(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘preleasing
6 activity’ does not include an environmental, geo-
7 logic, geophysical, economic, engineering, or
8 other scientific analysis, study, or evaluation.

9 “(2) BAN ON LEASING OFF FLORIDA COAST.—

10 The Secretary may not conduct any preleasing activ-
11 ity, or hold any lease sale, under the Outer Con-
12 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.),
13 in the South Atlantic Planning Area off the coast of
14 Florida, the Straits of Florida Planning Area, or the
15 Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, within 100
16 miles of the coast of Florida (as those planning
17 areas are established by the Secretary, acting
18 through the Director of the Minerals Management
19 Service).

20 “(3) CANCELLATION OF EXISTING LEASES OFF
21 FLORIDA COAST.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-
23 paragraphs (A) and (B) of section 5(a)(2), not
24 later than 90 days after the date of enactment
25 of this subsection, the Secretary shall cancel the

1 6 leases known as the “Pensacola Block 933
2 Unit”.

3 “(B) PLANS AND PERMITS.—The Sec-
4 retary shall not approve any exploration or de-
5 velopment plan or permit to drill with respect
6 to the area that is the subject of the lease de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) before the Sec-
8 retary has canceled the lease as required by
9 subparagraph (A).

10 “(C) COMPENSATION OF LESSEES.—The
11 Secretary shall determine compensation to les-
12 sees owning leases that are canceled under sub-
13 paragraph (A) in accordance with section
14 5(a)(2)(C).”.

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