

Union Calendar No. 280

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5136

[Report No. 109-503]

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. HALL (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

JUNE 15, 2006

Additional sponsors: Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOREN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia

JUNE 15, 2006

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 April 6, 2006]

A BILL

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

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 “National Integrated*
5 *Drought Information System Act of 2006”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *DROUGHT.*—*The term “drought” means a de-*
9 *ficiency in precipitation—*

10 (A) *that leads to a deficiency in surface or*
11 *subsurface water supplies (including rivers,*
12 *streams, wetlands, ground water, soil moisture,*
13 *reservoir supplies, lake levels, and snow pack);*
14 *and*

15 (B) *that causes or may cause—*

16 (i) *substantial economic or social im-*
17 *pacts; or*

18 (ii) *substantial physical damage or in-*
19 *jury to individuals, property, or the envi-*
20 *ronment.*

21 (2) *UNDER SECRETARY.*—*The term “Under Sec-*
22 *retary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for*
23 *Oceans and Atmosphere.*

1 **SEC. 3. NIDIS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Under Secretary, through the*
3 *National Weather Service and other appropriate weather*
4 *and climate programs in the National Oceanic and Atmos-*
5 *pheric Administration, shall establish a National Inte-*
6 *grated Drought Information System.*

7 (b) *SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.*—*The National Integrated*
8 *Drought Information System shall—*

9 (1) *provide an effective drought early warning*
10 *system that—*

11 (A) *is a comprehensive system that collects*
12 *and integrates information on the key indicators*
13 *of drought in order to make usable, reliable, and*
14 *timely drought forecasts and assessments of*
15 *drought, including assessments of the severity of*
16 *drought conditions and impacts;*

17 (B) *communicates drought forecasts,*
18 *drought conditions, and drought impacts on an*
19 *ongoing basis to—*

20 (i) *decisionmakers at the Federal, re-*
21 *gional, State, tribal, and local levels of gov-*
22 *ernment;*

23 (ii) *the private sector; and*

24 (iii) *the public,*

1 *in order to engender better informed and more*
2 *timely decisions thereby leading to reduced im-*
3 *pacts and costs; and*

4 *(C) includes timely (where possible real-*
5 *time) data, information, and products that re-*
6 *fect local, regional, and State differences in*
7 *drought conditions;*

8 *(2) coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Fed-*
9 *eral research in support of a drought early warning*
10 *system; and*

11 *(3) build upon existing forecasting and assess-*
12 *ment programs and partnerships.*

13 *(c) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall con-*
14 *sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local*
15 *government agencies, research institutions, and the private*
16 *sector in the development of the National Integrated*
17 *Drought Information System.*

18 *(d) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-*
19 *CIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appropriate*
20 *with the Under Secretary in carrying out this Act.*

21 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 *There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
23 *this Act—*

24 *(1) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;*

25 *(2) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;*

- 1 (3) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- 2 (4) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- 3 (5) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and
- 4 (6) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

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