

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2431

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

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 Reauthorization Act of
6 2013”.

7 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

8 Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-
9 mation System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-
10 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
2 riod at the end the following: “to better inform and
3 provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce
4 drought related impacts and costs”;

5 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
6 following:

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) collects and integrates information on
12 the key indicators of drought and drought im-
13 pacts in order to make usable, reliable, and
14 timely forecasts of drought, including assess-
15 ments of the severity of drought conditions and
16 impacts; and

17 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
18 and assessments on both national and regional
19 levels;

20 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
21 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
22 to public and private entities engaged in drought
23 planning and preparedness, including—

1 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
2 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
3 ment;

4 “(B) the private sector; and

5 “(C) the public;

6 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
7 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
8 ferences in drought conditions;

9 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
10 Federal research and monitoring in support of a
11 drought early warning system;

12 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
13 ment programs and partnerships, including through
14 the designation of one or more cooperative institutes
15 to assist with National Integrated Drought Informa-
16 tion System functions; and

17 “(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring
18 activities related to drought.”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) REPORT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
22 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-
23 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization
24 Act of 2013, the Under Secretary shall transmit to
25 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
2 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
3 ate a report that contains—

4 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of
5 the National Integrated Drought Information
6 System program, including how the informa-
7 tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in
8 drought policy planning and response activities;

9 “(B) specific plans for continued develop-
10 ment of such program, including future mile-
11 stones; and

12 “(C) an identification of research, moni-
13 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
14 predictive capability of drought early warnings
15 that include—

16 “(i) the length and severity of
17 droughts;

18 “(ii) the contribution of weather
19 events to reducing the severity or ending
20 drought conditions; and

21 “(iii) regionally specific drought im-
22 pacts.

23 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report
24 under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-
25 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,

1 and local government agencies, research institutions,
2 and the private sector.”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 4 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
8 2018.”.

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