

Calendar No. 424

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2200****[Report No. 115–256]**

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 6, 2017

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

MAY 22, 2018

Reported by Mr. THUNE, with an amendment

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

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information
System, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Integrated
3 Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of
4 2018”.

5 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION**
6 **SYSTEM PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Inte-
8 grated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15
9 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “in
12 order to make usable, reliable, and timely fore-
13 casts of drought, including” and inserting “in-
14 cluding, precipitation, soil moisture, and evapo-
15 rative demand, in order to make usable, reli-
16 able, and timely forecasts of drought and”;

17 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “water-
18 shed,” after “regional,”;

19 (C) in paragraph (4)—

20 (i) by inserting “, through interagency
21 agreements” after “integrate”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “information” after
23 “warning”;

24 (D) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
25 follows:

1 “(5) utilize existing forecasting and assessment
 2 programs and partnerships, including forecast com-
 3 munication coordinators and cooperative institutes,
 4 and improvements in seasonal, subseasonal, and low
 5 flow water prediction; and”;

6 (E) in paragraph (6), by inserting “the
 7 prediction,” after “relating to”;

8 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (e)
 9 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

10 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—The National Integrated
 13 Drought Information System may—

14 “(1) engage with the private sector to improve
 15 drought forecast and communication if the Under
 16 Secretary determines the partnership is appropriate,
 17 cost-effective, and beneficial to the public and deci-
 18 sionmakers described in subsection (b)(2)(A); and

19 “(2) facilitate the development of one or more
 20 academic cooperative partnerships to assist with Na-
 21 tional Integrated Drought Information System func-
 22 tions.”;

23 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by insert-
 24 ing “and sustainment” after “development”; and

1 (5) by striking subsection (f), as redesignated,
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(f) SOIL MOISTURE.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought
5 Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018, the
6 Under Secretary, acting through the National Integrated
7 Drought Information System, shall develop a strategy for
8 a national coordinated soil moisture monitoring network.”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 4 of the National Integrated Drought Information System
11 Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended to read
12 as follows:

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

14 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this Act—

16 “(1) \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;

17 “(2) \$14,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;

18 “(3) \$15,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;

19 “(4) \$16,500,000 for fiscal year 2021;

20 “(5) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

21 “(6) \$18,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.

22 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN-**
23 **FORMATION IN AGRICULTURE.**

24 Section 1762(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15
25 U.S.C. 8521(j)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(j) ~~AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—~~There
 2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activi-
 3 ties under this section—

4 “(1) ~~\$26,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;~~

5 “(2) ~~\$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;~~

6 “(3) ~~\$28,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;~~

7 “(4) ~~\$29,500,000 for fiscal year 2021;~~

8 “(5) ~~\$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and~~

9 “(6) ~~\$31,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.~~

10 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

11 *This Act may be cited as the “National Integrated*
 12 *Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018”.*

13 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION**
 14 **SYSTEM PROGRAM.**

15 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Inte-*
 16 *grated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C.*
 17 *313d) is amended—*

18 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

19 (A) *in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “in*
 20 *order to make usable, reliable, and timely fore-*
 21 *casts of drought, including” and inserting “, in-*
 22 *cluding precipitation, soil moisture, and evapo-*
 23 *rative demand, in order to make usable, reliable,*
 24 *and timely forecasts of drought and”;*

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “water-
2 shed,” after “regional,”;

3 (C) in paragraph (4)—

4 (i) by inserting “, through interagency
5 agreements” after “integrate”; and

6 (ii) by inserting “information” after
7 “warning”;

8 (D) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(5) utilize existing forecasting and assessment
11 programs and partnerships, including forecast com-
12 munication coordinators and cooperative institutes,
13 and improvements in seasonal, subseasonal, and low
14 flow water prediction; and”; and

15 (E) in paragraph (6), by inserting “the pre-
16 diction,” after “relating to”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
18 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(c) *PARTNERSHIPS.*—*The National Integrated*
22 *Drought Information System may—*

23 “(1) engage with the private sector to improve
24 drought monitoring, forecast, and communication if
25 the Under Secretary determines the partnership is ap-

1 *appropriate, cost-effective, and beneficial to the public*
 2 *and decisionmakers described in subsection (b)(2)(A);*

3 *“(2) facilitate the development of 1 or more aca-*
 4 *demic cooperative partnerships to assist with Na-*
 5 *tional Integrated Drought Information System func-*
 6 *tions; and*

7 *“(3) utilize and support, as appropriate, moni-*
 8 *toring by citizen scientists, including by developing*
 9 *best practices to facilitate maximum data integra-*
 10 *tion.”;*

11 *(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by insert-*
 12 *ing “and sustainment” after “development”; and*

13 *(5) by striking subsection (f), as redesignated,*
 14 *and inserting the following:*

15 *“(f) SOIL MOISTURE.—Not later than 1 year after the*
 16 *date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought Infor-*
 17 *mation System Reauthorization Act of 2018, the Under Sec-*
 18 *retary, acting through the National Integrated Drought In-*
 19 *formation System, shall develop a strategy for a national*
 20 *coordinated soil moisture monitoring network.”.*

21 *(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 4*
 22 *of the National Integrated Drought Information System Act*
 23 *of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended to read as follows:*

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

2 *“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
 3 *this Act—*

4 *“(1) \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;*

5 *“(2) \$13,750,000 for fiscal year 2019;*

6 *“(3) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;*

7 *“(4) \$14,250,000 for fiscal year 2021;*

8 *“(5) \$14,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and*

9 *“(6) \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.*

10 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN-**
 11 **FORMATION IN AGRICULTURE.**

12 *Section 1762 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15*
 13 *U.S.C. 8521) is amended—*

14 *(1) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:*

15 *“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are*
 16 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities*
 17 *under this section—*

18 *“(1) \$26,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;*

19 *“(2) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;*

20 *“(3) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;*

21 *“(4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;*

22 *“(5) \$28,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and*

23 *“(6) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.”; and*

24 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

25 *“(k) DERIVATION OF FUNDS.—Amounts made avail-*
 26 *able to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts*

- 1 *appropriated or otherwise made available to the National*
- 2 *Weather Service.”.*

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