

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10318

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to enhance the economic security of Pacific territories adjacent to seabed mining through revenue sharing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to enhance the economic security of Pacific territories adjacent to seabed mining through revenue sharing, 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 “Pacific Minerals Eco-
5 nomic Security Act” or “PACMESA”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO OCSLA.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LEASES ISSUED
8 UNDER OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.—Sec-

1 tion 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
2 U.S.C. 1337(k)) is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
4 graph (6);

5 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) NO ROYALTY RELIEF.—The Secretary may
8 not reduce, suspend, waive, eliminate, or otherwise
9 exempt from payment any cash bonus, rental, roy-
10 alty, or other amount due for a lease issued under
11 paragraph (1) for a covered area of the outer Conti-
12 nental Shelf.

13 “(3) SECURITY.—

14 “(A) INITIAL SURETY BOND.—The Sec-
15 retary may not issue a lease under paragraph
16 (1) for a covered area of the outer Continental
17 Shelf unless and until the prospective lessee
18 provides to the Secretary a surety bond (or
19 other form of security or financial assurance, as
20 the Secretary determines appropriate) of not
21 less than \$100,000 to cover the lessee’s obliga-
22 tions under the lease.

23 “(B) SUPPLEMENTAL SURETY BOND.—
24 The Secretary may not approve a plan author-
25 izing production activities pursuant to a lease

1 issued under paragraph (1) for a covered area
2 of the outer Continental Shelf unless and until
3 the lessee provides to the Secretary a supple-
4 mental surety bond (or other form of security
5 or financial assurance, as the Secretary deter-
6 mines appropriate) of an amount determined by
7 the Secretary based on—

8 “(i) the financial health of the lessee;

9 “(ii) the financial ability of the lessee
10 to cover obligations of the lease;

11 “(iii) the estimated cost of decommis-
12 sioning; and

13 “(iv) the estimated cost of environ-
14 mental restoration of area subject to the
15 lease.

16 “(C) ADJUSTMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL
17 SURETY BOND.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the cumulative
19 potential obligations and liabilities of a
20 lease under paragraph (1) for a covered
21 area either increase or decrease, the Sec-
22 retary may adjust the amount of supple-
23 mental financial assurance required.

24 “(ii) RESPONSIBILITY.—An adjust-
25 ment under clause (i) may be made—

1 “(I) independently by the Sec-
2 retary; or

3 “(II) at the discretion of the Sec-
4 retary at the request of the lessee.

5 “(4) STUDY.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one
7 year after the date of the enactment of the Pa-
8 cific Minerals Economic Security Act, the Sec-
9 retary shall conduct a study on potential envi-
10 ronmental impact mitigation methods for the
11 different kinds of seabed mining being consid-
12 ered in the waters adjacent to covered terri-
13 tories.

14 “(B) CONTENTS.—The study required
15 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

16 “(i) which potential activities could be
17 employed to mitigate the environmental
18 impacts of seabed mining; and

19 “(ii) the potential costs of each dif-
20 ferent kind of mitigation activity consid-
21 ered.

22 “(C) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the
23 study under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
24 shall make reasonable efforts to consult with
25 Northern Marianas College, the University of

1 Guam, and American Samoa Community Col-
2 lege.

3 “(D) SUBMISSION.—The completed study
4 under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to
5 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee
7 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
8 ate.

9 “(5) REVENUE SHARING FOR CERTAIN
10 LEASES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sec-
12 tion 9 and subsection (m) of this section, begin-
13 ning in fiscal year 2027 and for each fiscal year
14 thereafter, the Secretary shall deposit—

15 “(i) 50 percent of all covered leasing
16 revenues in the general fund of the Treas-
17 ury; and

18 “(ii) 50 percent of all covered leasing
19 revenues in a special account in the Treas-
20 ury from which the Secretary shall dis-
21 burse such covered leasing revenues to the
22 covered territories a point on the coastline
23 of which is located within 200 nautical
24 miles of the geographic center of the appli-
25 cable leased tract, to be allocated in

1 amounts (based on a formula established
2 by the Secretary by regulation) that are in-
3 versely proportional to the respective dis-
4 tances between the point on the coastline
5 of each such covered territory that is clos-
6 est to the geographic center of the applica-
7 ble leased tract and the geographic center
8 of the applicable leased tract.

9 “(B) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—For each
10 applicable leased tract, the amount allocated
11 under subparagraph (A)(ii) to each covered ter-
12 ritory satisfying the distance requirement under
13 that subparagraph with respect to that tract
14 shall be at least 10 percent of the covered leas-
15 ing revenues attributable to such tract that are
16 available for allocation to covered territories
17 under that subparagraph.

18 “(C) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Each covered
19 territory shall use all amounts received pursu-
20 ant to subparagraph (A)(ii) only for—

21 “(i) coastal restoration activities;

22 “(ii) the development and mainte-
23 nance of infrastructure, including energy
24 infrastructure;

1 “(iii) environmental mitigation activi-
 2 ties; or

3 “(iv) fiscal stabilization or debt reduc-
 4 tion.

5 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made
 6 available pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii)
 7 shall—

8 “(i) be made available, without fur-
 9 ther appropriation, in accordance with this
 10 paragraph;

11 “(ii) remain available until expended;
 12 and

13 “(iii) be in addition to any amounts
 14 otherwise appropriated under any other
 15 provision of law.”; and

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

17 “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18 “(A) COVERED AREA OF THE OUTER CON-
 19 TINENTAL SHELF.—The term ‘covered area of
 20 the Outer Continental Shelf’ means an area on
 21 the Outer Continental Shelf that is adjacent to
 22 a covered territory.

23 “(B) COVERED LEASING REVENUES.—The
 24 term ‘covered leasing revenues’—

1 “(i) means all cash bonuses, rentals,
2 royalties, and other amounts paid to the
3 Secretary for or under a lease issued under
4 paragraph (1) for a covered area of the
5 outer Continental Shelf; and

6 “(ii) does not include any cash bonus,
7 rental, royalty, or other amount generated
8 from such a lease subject to section 8(g).

9 “(C) COVERED TERRITORY.—The term
10 ‘covered territory’ means—

11 “(i) Guam;

12 “(ii) American Samoa; and

13 “(iii) the Commonwealth of the
14 Northern Mariana Islands.”.

15 (b) NOTICE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any
17 prospecting, testing, delineation, production plan, or
18 permit application submitted pursuant to this Act or
19 an amendment made by this Act that would require
20 a consistency review under the Coastal Zone Man-
21 agement Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall, im-
22 mediately upon submission of such plan, provide to
23 the Governor of each adjacent covered territory no-
24 tice of the plan.

1 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—In the case of
2 a plan described in paragraph (1) requiring an envi-
3 ronmental assessment, the Secretary of the Interior
4 shall invite the Governor of each adjacent covered
5 territory to review and provide comments regarding
6 the proposed activities and include a specified period
7 of time for the applicable Governor to provide such
8 comments.

9 (3) ADJACENT COVERED TERRITORY DE-
10 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “adjacent cov-
11 ered territory” means a covered territory (as defined
12 in section 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
13 Act, as amended by this Act) that is adjacent to an
14 area of the Outer Continental Shelf to which a plan
15 described in paragraph (1) applies.

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