

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3641

To require the Secretary of Energy to study causes of the recent home heating fuel price spikes in the Northeast and to create a 10,000,000 barrel heating oil reserve in the Northeast.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to study causes of the recent home heating fuel price spikes in the Northeast and to create a 10,000,000 barrel heating oil reserve in the Northeast.

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 “Home Heating Fuel
5 Price Spike Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the recent dramatic price increase of home
2 heating fuel in the Northeast is dangerous for the
3 citizens residing in the area;

4 (2) the recent dramatic price increase of home
5 heating fuel in the Northeast has caused long-term
6 damage of the finances of many residents; and

7 (3) price surges and fuel shortages are not un-
8 common in the Northeast region.

9 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

10 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall conduct a
11 study to identify reasons for the recent home heating fuel
12 shortage and corresponding price surge in the Northeast
13 region. As part of the study, the Secretary shall propose
14 alternatives to help alleviate future home heating fuel
15 shortages and recommendations with respect to the suit-
16 ability and feasibility of each alternative.

17 (b) **FINDINGS INCLUDED IN STUDY.**—The study re-
18 quired by subsection (a) shall include findings with respect
19 to—

20 (1) reasons for the recent shortage of home
21 heating fuel and subsequent price surges;

22 (2) identification of the factors contributing to
23 and exacerbating the home heating fuel shortage, in-
24 cluding, but not limited to—

1 (A) the role of interruptible service con-
2 tracts;

3 (B) public and private oil reserve levels;

4 (C) the flow of home heating fuel into the
5 region; and

6 (D) international organization activities to
7 limit world oil supply;

8 (3) the types of Federal, State, and local pro-
9 grams that are available to help mitigate the prob-
10 lem of high home heating fuel prices experienced by
11 homeowners;

12 (4) the potential use of, and coordination with,
13 Federal, State, and local programs to reduce the
14 possibility of recurring home heating fuel shortages;
15 and

16 (5) recommendations for heating fuel suppliers
17 and producers so as to alleviate future price spikes.

18 (c) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall
19 submit a report detailing the results of the study required
20 by subsection (a) to the Congress not later than 90 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 4. HEATING OIL RESERVE.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall imme-
24 diately create a reserve containing 10,000,000 barrels of
25 heating oil, in one or more locations in the Northeast re-

1 gion. The Secretary may fill this reserve by trading petro-
2 leum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for
3 heating oil.

4 (b) DRAWDOWN.—The President may immediately
5 drawdown heating oil from the reserve established under
6 this section during, or in anticipation of, severe home
7 heating fuel price fluctuations, or at any other time when
8 the President determines the national interests would be
9 served by such drawdown.

10 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of each
11 year, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a report
12 on the status of the reserve established under this section.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 For purposes of this Act—

15 (1) the term “home heating fuel” includes heat-
16 ing oil, kerosene, and natural gas;

17 (2) the term “Northeast region” includes the
18 States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New
19 Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,
20 Rhode Island, and Vermont; and

21 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Energy.

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