

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6026

To modify the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To modify the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 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 “Dredging for Restora-
5 tion and Economic Development for Global Exports Act
6 of 2012” or the “DREDGE Act of 2012”.

7 **SEC. 2. MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL, GULF OF MEX-**
8 **ICO TO BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.**

9 (a) PROJECT MODIFICATION.—The project for navi-
10 gation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to

1 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, authorized by section 201 of the
2 Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat.
3 4090), is modified as follows:

4 (1) To direct the Secretary of the Army to
5 achieve, operate, and maintain a navigation channel
6 of 50 feet with respect to the portion of the project
7 from Baton Rouge to the Southwest Pass sea buoy.

8 (2) To direct the Secretary to complete the
9 work required under paragraph (1) not later than
10 the last day of the third fiscal year beginning after
11 the date of enactment of this Act (completing at
12 least one-third of such work in each of the first 2
13 fiscal years beginning after such date of enactment).

14 (3) To direct the Secretary to conduct a pilot
15 disposal and sediment project in the Southwest Pass
16 area to determine the cost-effectiveness of pump-out
17 disposal operations for hopper dredges for—

18 (A) environmental enhancement; and

19 (B) dredged material disposal.

20 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection
21 (a)(3), the Secretary shall consult with appropriate Fed-
22 eral, State, and local agencies and stakeholders to deter-
23 mine the safe placement and timing of pump-out disposal
24 operations that protect, create, restore, and nourish coast-
25 al wetlands and aquatic habitat.

1 (c) TREATMENT OF COSTS.—All costs of the work re-
2 quired under subsection (a) shall be treated as operation
3 and maintenance costs, including the first costs of achiev-
4 ing a navigation channel of 50 feet.

5 (d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section
6 101(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of
7 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211(b)(1)), the Federal share of the
8 cost of the work required under subsection (a) shall be
9 100 percent.

10 (e) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section 210 of the
11 Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C.
12 2238) or section 9505 of the Internal Revenue Code of
13 1986, the Secretary shall pay 100 percent of the costs of
14 the work required under subsection (a) out of amounts
15 made available to the Secretary from the Harbor Mainte-
16 nance Trust Fund for operation and maintenance ex-
17 penses.

18 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
20 submit to Congress a report on—

21 (1) the cost and the environmental, storm dam-
22 age reduction, and social benefits of the pump-out
23 disposal operation carried out under subsection
24 (a)(3), as compared to standard dredging practices
25 for the area; and

1 (2) the total quantity of dredge material pro-
2 duced during operation and maintenance activities in
3 the New Orleans District and the quantity that is
4 beneficially used.

5 (g) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—
6 Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the au-
7 thority of the Secretary with respect to the width of the
8 project referred to in subsection (a).

○