

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 376

AN ACT

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 “Drought Information
3 Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATED**
5 **DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM.**

6 (a) **SYSTEM AMENDMENTS.**—Section 3 of the Na-
7 tional Integrated Drought Information System Act of
8 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by inserting “and continue to support”
11 after “establish”; and

12 (B) by inserting before the period at the
13 end the following: “to better inform and provide
14 for more timely decisionmaking to reduce
15 drought related impacts and costs”; and

16 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(b) **SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.**—The National Integrated
19 Drought Information System shall—

20 “(1) provide an effective drought early warning
21 system that—

22 “(A) collects and integrates information on
23 the key indicators of drought and drought im-
24 pacts, including water supplies and soil mois-
25 ture, in order to make usable, reliable, and
26 timely forecasts of drought, including assess-

1 ments of the severity of drought conditions and
2 impacts; and

3 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
4 and assessments on both national and regional
5 levels;

6 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
7 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
8 to stakeholders and entities engaged in drought
9 planning, preparedness, and management, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
12 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
13 ment;

14 “(B) the private sector; and

15 “(C) the public;

16 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
17 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
18 ferences in drought conditions;

19 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
20 Federal research and monitoring in support of a
21 drought early warning system;

22 “(5) build upon existing Federal, State, re-
23 gional, private, public, and academic forecasting and
24 assessment programs and partnerships; and

1 “(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring
2 activities related to drought, including research ac-
3 tivities relating to length, severity, and impacts of
4 drought and the role of extreme weather events and
5 climate variability in drought.”.

6 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
7 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(7) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014
14 through 2018.”.

15 (c) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-
19 mosphere shall submit to the Committee on Com-
20 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
21 and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
22 nology of the House of Representatives a report on
23 the National Integrated Drought Information Sys-
24 tem.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
2 graph (1) shall include the following:

3 (A) An assessment of the implementation
4 of the National Integrated Drought Information
5 System, including an assessment of how the in-
6 formation, forecasts, and assessments produced
7 by such system are utilized in drought policy
8 planning and response activities.

9 (B) Specific plans for continued develop-
10 ment of the system, including future milestones.

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

15 (i) the length and severity of
16 droughts;

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

20 (iii) regionally-specific drought im-
21 pacts.

22 (D) A list of partners with whom the
23 Under Secretary collaborates to implement the
24 National Integrated Drought Information Sys-
25 tem.

1 (E) A description of the outreach activities
2 conducted by the Under Secretary regarding
3 the National Integrated Drought Information
4 System.

5 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report
6 required by paragraph (1), the Under Secretary
7 shall consult with relevant Federal, regional, State,
8 tribal, and local government agencies, research insti-
9 tutions, and the private sector.

Passed the Senate February 3, 2014.

Attest:

Secretary.

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