

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1263

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, 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 “Atlantic Seismic
5 Airgun Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON OIL-, GAS-, AND METHANE HY-**
 2 **DRATE-RELATED SEISMIC ACTIVITIES IN**
 3 **NORTH ATLANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH AT-**
 4 **LANTIC, AND STRAITS OF FLORIDA PLAN-**
 5 **NING AREAS OF OUTER CONTINENTAL**
 6 **SHELF.**

7 Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
 8 (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the
 9 following:

10 “(i) MORATORIUM ON OIL-, GAS-, AND METHANE
 11 HYDRATE-RELATED SEISMIC ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AT-
 12 LANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND STRAITS
 13 OF FLORIDA PLANNING AREAS.—Notwithstanding any
 14 other provision of law, no person or agency of the United
 15 States may conduct geological or geophysical activities (as
 16 those terms are described in the final programmatic envi-
 17 ronmental impact statement of the Bureau of Ocean En-
 18 ergy Management entitled ‘Atlantic OCS Proposed Geo-
 19 logical and Geophysical Activities, Mid-Atlantic and South
 20 Atlantic Planning Areas’ and completed February 2014)
 21 in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and
 22 development in any area located in the North Atlantic,
 23 Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, or Straits of Florida plan-
 24 ning areas of the outer Continental Shelf.”.

○