

Union Calendar No.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2431

[Report No. 113-]

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

DECEMBER --, 2013

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 19, 2013]

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

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 “National Integrated*
5 *Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013”.*

6 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

7 *Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Informa-*
8 *tion System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—*

9 *(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-*
10 *riod at the end the following: “to better inform and*
11 *provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce*
12 *drought related impacts and costs”;*

13 *(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the*
14 *following:*

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

17 *“(1) provide an effective drought early warning*
18 *system that—*

19 *“(A) collects and integrates information on*
20 *the key indicators of drought and drought im-*
21 *pacts in order to make usable, reliable, and time-*
22 *ly forecasts of drought, including assessments of*
23 *the severity of drought conditions and impacts;*
24 *and*

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

4 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
5 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
6 to public and private entities engaged in drought
7 planning and preparedness, including—

8 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
9 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
10 ment;

11 “(B) the private sector; and

12 “(C) the public;

13 “(3) provide timely data, information, and prod-
14 ucts that reflect local, regional, and State differences
15 in drought conditions;

16 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
17 Federal research and monitoring in support of a
18 drought early warning system;

19 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
20 ment programs and partnerships, including through
21 the designation of one or more cooperative institutes
22 to assist with National Integrated Drought Informa-
23 tion System functions; and

24 “(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring
25 activities related to drought, including research ac-

1 *tivities relating to length, severity, and impacts of*
2 *drought and the role of extreme weather events and*
3 *climate variability in drought.”; and*

4 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

5 *“(e) REPORT.—*

6 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months*
7 *after the date of enactment of the National Integrated*
8 *Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of*
9 *2013, the Under Secretary shall transmit to the Com-*
10 *mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the*
11 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-*
12 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a*
13 *report that contains—*

14 *“(A) an analysis of the implementation of*
15 *the National Integrated Drought Information*
16 *System program, including how the information,*
17 *forecasts, and assessments are utilized in drought*
18 *policy planning and response activities;*

19 *“(B) specific plans for continued develop-*
20 *ment of such program, including future mile-*
21 *stones; and*

22 *“(C) an identification of research, moni-*
23 *toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the pre-*
24 *dictive capability of drought early warnings that*
25 *include—*

1 “(i) *the length and severity of*
2 *droughts;*

3 “(ii) *the contribution of weather events*
4 *to reducing the severity or ending drought*
5 *conditions; and*

6 “(iii) *regionally specific drought im-*
7 *pacts.*

8 “(2) *CONSULTATION.—In developing the report*
9 *under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-*
10 *sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and*
11 *local government agencies, research institutions, and*
12 *the private sector.”.*

13 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 *Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amend-*
15 *ed to read as follows:*

16 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 *“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
18 *this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through*
19 *2018.”.*