

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2855

To direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, 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 “Sinkhole Mapping Act  
5 of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. SINKHOLE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the United States  
8 Geological Survey shall establish a program to—

1           (1) study the short-term and long-term mecha-  
2           nisms that cause sinkholes, including extreme storm  
3           events, prolonged droughts causing shifts in water  
4           management practices, aquifer depletion, and other  
5           major changes in water use; and

6           (2) develop maps that depict zones that are at  
7           greater risk of sinkhole formation.

8           (b) REVIEW OF MAPS.—Once during each 5-year pe-  
9           riod, or more often as the Director of the United States  
10          Geological Survey determines is necessary, the Director  
11          shall assess the need to revise and update the maps devel-  
12          oped under this section.

13          (c) WEBSITE.—The Director of the United States  
14          Geological Survey shall establish and maintain a public  
15          website that displays the maps developed under this sec-  
16          tion and other relevant information critical for use by com-  
17          munity planners and emergency managers.

18          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19          are hereby authorized \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
20          2024 through 2028 to be appropriated to the Director of  
21          the United States Geological Survey for purposes of car-  
22          rying out this section.

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