

H.R. 2431
The National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013
Section-by-Section Analysis

Purpose: To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

Section 1. Short Title. *The National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013*

Section 2. NIDIS Program Amendments. Section 2 modifies Section 3 of the 2006 Act. Section 2(1) modifies the “In General” clause by adding the purpose of the NIDIS program “to better inform and provide for more timely decision making to reduce drought related impacts and costs.”

Section 2 modifies existing language by reorganizing in order to distinguish between the function of the NIDIS program in general and the early warning system specifically. The functions are largely the same as those in existing law, reorganized to reflect the distinction. The only additional function added is to allow NIDIS to “continue ongoing research activities related to drought.” Section 2 reestablishes NIDIS system functions including building upon forecasting and assessment partnerships and the designation of one or more cooperative institutes to assist with NIDIS functions.

Section 2 also adds a new subsection (e) which requires the Undersecretary of Commerce to provide the Committee with a report 18 months after enactment. This report should (i) include an analysis of the implementation of NIDIS, including how the information, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in drought planning policy and response activities; (ii) describe specific plans, including future milestones, for continued development of such programs; and (iii) identify research, monitoring, and forecasting needs to enhance the predictive capability of drought early warnings, the length and severity of droughts, and the contribution of weather events to reducing or ending drought conditions. In developing this report, the Undersecretary is also required to consult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector.

Section 3. Authorization of Appropriations. Section 3 amends Section 4 of the 2006 Act to authorize appropriations for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 in the amount of \$13.5 per year.