

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 376

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2013

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico,
and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was
read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Drought Information
5 Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATED**
2 **DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM.**

3 (a) SYSTEM AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the Na-
4 tional Integrated Drought Information System Act of
5 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by inserting “and continue to support”
8 after “establish”; and

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

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 in order to make
21 usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought,
22 including assessments of the severity of drought
23 conditions and impacts; and

24 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
25 and assessments on both national and regional
26 levels;

1 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
2 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
3 to—

4 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
5 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
6 ment;

7 “(B) the private sector; and

8 “(C) the public;

9 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
10 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
11 ferences in drought conditions;

12 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
13 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
14 ing system;

15 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
16 ment programs and partnerships, such as partner-
17 ships with—

18 “(A) the Regional Integrated Sciences and
19 Assessments program of the National Oceanic
20 and Atmospheric Administration;

21 “(B) Cooperative Extension System offices
22 of the Department of Agriculture;

23 “(C) the National Institute of Food and
24 Agriculture;

1 “(D) the Office of the Chief Economist of
2 the Department of Agriculture;

3 “(E) the Farm Service Agency; and

4 “(F) other Federal agencies or depart-
5 ments that monitor and disseminate weather
6 and climate information; and

7 “(6) continue ongoing research activities related
8 to drought, including research activities relating to
9 length, severity, and impacts of drought and the role
10 of extreme weather events and climate variability in
11 drought.”.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
13 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended—

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

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

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

19 “(7) \$14,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014
20 through 2018.”.

21 (c) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-
25 mosphere shall submit to the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
2 and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
3 nology of the House of Representatives a report on
4 the National Integrated Drought Information Sys-
5 tem.

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

8 (A) An assessment of the implementation
9 of the National Integrated Drought Information
10 System, including an assessment of how the in-
11 formation, forecasts, and assessments produced
12 by such system are utilized in drought policy
13 planning and response activities.

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

16 (C) An identification of research, moni-
17 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
18 predictive capability of—

19 (i) drought early warnings;

20 (ii) the length and severity of
21 droughts; and

22 (iii) the contribution of weather events
23 to reducing the severity or ending drought
24 conditions.

1 (D) A list of persons in the private sector
2 with whom the Under Secretary collaborates to
3 implement the National Integrated Drought In-
4 formation System.

5 (E) A description of the outreach activities
6 conducted by the Under Secretary regarding
7 the National Integrated Drought Information
8 System.

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

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