

Calendar No. 307

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 2431**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

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
6 2014”.

7 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

8 Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-
9 mation System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-
10 ed—

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

5 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
8 Drought Information System shall—

9 “(1) provide an effective drought early warning
10 system that—

11 “(A) collects and integrates information on
12 the key indicators of drought and drought im-
13 pacts in order to make usable, reliable, and
14 timely forecasts of drought, including assess-
15 ments of the severity of drought conditions and
16 impacts; and

17 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
18 and assessments on both national and regional
19 levels;

20 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
21 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
22 to public and private entities engaged in drought
23 planning and preparedness, including—

1 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
2 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
3 ment;

4 “(B) the private sector; and

5 “(C) the public;

6 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
7 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
8 ferences in drought conditions;

9 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
10 Federal research and monitoring in support of a
11 drought early warning system;

12 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
13 ment programs and partnerships, including through
14 the designation of one or more cooperative institutes
15 to assist with National Integrated Drought Informa-
16 tion System functions; and

17 “(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring
18 activities related to drought, including research ac-
19 tivities relating to length, severity, and impacts of
20 drought and the role of extreme weather events and
21 climate variability in drought.”; and

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

23 “(e) REPORT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
25 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-

1 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization
2 Act of 2014, the Under Secretary shall transmit to
3 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
4 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
5 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
6 ate a report that contains—

7 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of
8 the National Integrated Drought Information
9 System program, including how the informa-
10 tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in
11 drought policy planning and response activities;

12 “(B) specific plans for continued develop-
13 ment of such program, including future mile-
14 stones; and

15 “(C) an identification of research, moni-
16 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
17 predictive capability of drought early warnings
18 that include—

19 “(i) the length and severity of
20 droughts;

21 “(ii) the contribution of weather
22 events to reducing the severity or ending
23 drought conditions; and

24 “(iii) regionally specific drought im-
25 pacts.

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

6 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is
8 amended to read as follows:

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

10 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
12 2018.”.

 Passed the House of Representatives February 10,
2014.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

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