

Union Calendar No. 148

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 555

[Report No. 113-201]

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct onshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Additional sponsors: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GOSAR

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct onshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, 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 “BLM Live Internet
5 Auctions Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE**
7 **SALES.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Min-
9 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence,
11 by inserting “, except as provided in subparagraph
12 (C)” after “by oral bidding”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(C) In order to diversify and expand the Nation’s
15 onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to the
16 Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing
17 process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales
18 through Internet-based bidding methods. Each individual
19 Internet-based lease sale shall conclude within 7 days.”.

20 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the tenth
21 Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment
22 made by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall
23 analyze the first 10 such lease sales and report to Con-
24 gress the findings of the analysis. The report shall in-
25 clude—

1 (1) estimates on increases or decreases in such
2 lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bid-
3 ding, in—

4 (A) the number of bidders;

5 (B) the average amount of bid;

6 (C) the highest amount bid; and

7 (D) the lowest bid;

8 (2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to
9 the Department of the Interior as a result of such
10 sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding;
11 and

12 (3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or ex-
13 pected effectiveness of different structures for lease
14 sales which may provide an opportunity to better
15 maximize bidder participation, ensure the highest re-
16 turn to the Federal taxpayers, minimize opportuni-
17 ties for fraud or collusion, and ensure the security
18 and integrity of the leasing process.

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