

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 49

To amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2023

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, 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 “American Shores Pro-  
5 tection Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE**  
2 **COASTS OF THE STATES OF FLORIDA, GEOR-**  
3 **GIA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.**

4 Section 104 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security  
5 Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–432)  
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
9 by striking “June 30, 2022” and inserting  
10 “June 30, 2032”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”  
12 after the semicolon;

13 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking  
14 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
15 and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) any area in the South Atlantic Planning  
18 Area (as designated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
19 Management as of the date of enactment of this  
20 paragraph); or

21 “(5) any area in the Straits of Florida Planning  
22 Area (as designated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
23 Management as of the date of enactment of this  
24 paragraph).”; and

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

1       “(d) EFFECT ON CERTAIN LEASES.—The moratoria  
2 under paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) shall not  
3 affect valid existing leases in effect on the date of enact-  
4 ment of this subsection.

5       “(e) ENVIRONMENTAL EXCEPTIONS.—Notwith-  
6 standing subsection (a), the Secretary may issue leases in  
7 areas described in that subsection for environmental con-  
8 servation purposes, including the purposes of shore protec-  
9 tion, beach nourishment and restoration, wetlands restora-  
10 tion, and habitat protection.”.

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