

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1372

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct oil and natural gas exploration, leasing, and drilling activities on the outer Continental Shelf offshore the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HURT, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct oil and natural gas exploration, leasing, and drilling activities on the outer Continental Shelf offshore the State of Virginia, 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 “Virginia Access to En-
5 ergy Act” or the “VA Energy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COASTAL ZONE.—The term “coastal zone”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the
3 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
4 1331).

5 (2) LEASE SALE 220.—The term “Lease Sale
6 220” means the sale of Federal oil and gas explo-
7 ration leases in the outer Continental Shelf planning
8 area located off the coast of the State.

9 (3) QUALIFIED REVENUES.—The term “quali-
10 fied revenues” means all rentals, royalties, bonus
11 bids, and other sums due and payable to the United
12 States—

13 (A) under leases entered into under this
14 Act; or

15 (B) under other oil and gas leases of areas
16 of the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of
17 Virginia.

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior.

20 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
21 of Virginia.

1 **SEC. 3. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEAS-**
2 **ING OFF THE COAST OF THE STATE OF VIR-**
3 **GINIA.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not
5 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
6 the Secretary shall carry out the Lease Sale 220 under
7 section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
8 U.S.C. 1337).

9 (b) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY
10 OPERATIONS.—The Secretary shall not make any tract
11 available for lease under this Act if the President, in con-
12 sultation with the Committees on Armed Services of the
13 Senate and the House of Representatives, determines that
14 the lease of that tract would create an unreasonable con-
15 flict with military operations.

16 **SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 9 of the
18 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) and
19 subject to the provisions of this section, for each applicable
20 fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit—

21 (1) 50 percent of any qualified revenues in the
22 general fund of the Treasury, which shall be applied
23 solely to reduce the outstanding Federal debt; and

24 (2) 50 percent of any qualified revenues in a
25 special account in the Treasury to be used for the
26 purposes described subsection (b).

1 (b) DISPOSITION OF REVENUES TO STATE.—Of the
2 qualified revenues described in subsection (a)(2)—

3 (1) 75 percent shall be disbursed to the State;

4 (2) 12.5 percent—

5 (A) shall be used, without further appro-
6 priation, to provide financial assistance to the
7 State in accordance with section 6 of the Land
8 and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16
9 U.S.C. 4601–8); and

10 (B) shall be considered income to the Land
11 and Water Conservation Fund for purposes of
12 section 2 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 4601–5); and

13 (3) 12.5 percent shall be deposited in a sepa-
14 rate account in the Treasury that shall be used,
15 without further appropriation, by the Secretary of
16 the Interior, in consultation with the Governor of the
17 State, to mitigate for any environmental damage
18 that occurs as a result of extraction activities au-
19 thorized under oil and gas leases issued under this
20 Act, regardless of whether the damage is—

21 (A) reasonably foreseeable; or

22 (B) caused by negligence or a natural dis-
23 aster.

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