

## Union Calendar No. 252

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2752

[Report No. 112-371]

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.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2011

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

JANUARY 18, 2012

Additional sponsors: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. HECK

JANUARY 18, 2012

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on August 1, 2011]

# **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 Auc-*  
5 *tions Act”.*

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

7 **SALES.**

8 *(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral*  
9 *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 on-*  
15 *shore leasing program to ensure the best return to the Fed-*  
16 *eral taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process,*  
17 *the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through*  
18 *Internet-based bidding methods. Each individual Internet-*  
19 *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 Congress*  
24 *the findings of the analysis. The report shall include—*

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 the*  
9 *Department of the Interior as a result of such sales,*  
10 *compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and*

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



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