

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 109

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 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 “Offshore Energy Secu-
5 rity Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) OFFSHORE LEASE SALE.—The term “off-
9 shore lease sale” means an oil and gas lease sale—

1 (A) that is held by the Secretary in accord-
2 ance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
3 Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), notwithstanding
4 the requirements of section 18 of that Act (43
5 U.S.C. 1344);

6 (B) offers the same lease form, lease
7 terms, economic conditions, and stipulations as
8 contained in the final notice of sale entitled
9 “Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil
10 and Gas Lease Sale 261” (88 Fed. Reg. 80750
11 (November 20, 2023)); and

12 (C) that, if any acceptable bids have been
13 received for any tract offered in the lease sale,
14 results in the issuance of leases within 90 days
15 of the sale to the highest bids on the tracts of-
16 fered, subject to the procedures for determining
17 bid adequacy of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
18 Management, effective March 8, 2016, with re-
19 spect to—

20 (i) Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 241;

21 and

22 (ii) Eastern Gulf of Mexico Sale 226.

23 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any other re-
2 quirements under section 18 of the Outer Continental
3 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) that would delay final
4 approval of an offshore lease sale under subsection (c).

5 (c) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding the 2024–
6 2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leas-
7 ing Program, the Secretary shall—

8 (1) conduct not fewer than 20 offshore lease
9 sales, as described under subsection (d), during the
10 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment
11 of this Act; and

12 (2) to the maximum extent practicable, carry
13 out a lease sale under this subsection in accordance
14 with the Record of Decision approved by the Sec-
15 retary on January 17, 2017, and described in the
16 notice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
17 Management entitled “Record of Decision for the
18 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas
19 Leasing Program Final Programmatic Environ-
20 mental Impact Statement; MMAA104000” (82 Fed.
21 Reg. 6643 (January 19, 2017)).

22 (d) TIMING.—In conducting the offshore lease sales
23 under subsection (c), the Secretary shall conduct a lease
24 sale under this section not later than each of the following
25 dates:

- 1 (1) March 31, 2026.
- 2 (2) August 31, 2026.
- 3 (3) March 31, 2027.
- 4 (4) August 31, 2027.
- 5 (5) March 31, 2028.
- 6 (6) August 31, 2028.
- 7 (7) March 31, 2029.
- 8 (8) August 31, 2029.
- 9 (9) March 31, 2030.
- 10 (10) August 31, 2030.
- 11 (11) March 31, 2031.
- 12 (12) August 31, 2031.
- 13 (13) March 31, 2032.
- 14 (14) August 31, 2032.
- 15 (15) March 31, 2033.
- 16 (16) August 31, 2033.
- 17 (17) March 31, 2034.
- 18 (18) August 31, 2034.
- 19 (19) March 31, 2035.
- 20 (20) August 31, 2035.
- 21 (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—
- 22 (1) ACREAGE.—The Secretary shall offer not
- 23 fewer than 74,000,000 acres for each offshore lease
- 24 sale conducted under subsection (c).

(2) LOCATION.—An offshore lease sale conducted under subsection (c) shall be in the Gulf of Mexico Region Program Area as identified in Figure S–1 of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published on November 18, 2016 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (as announced in the notice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management entitled “Notice of Availability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23, 2016)))”.

(f) EFFECT OF LITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action relating to an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to an offshore lease sale conducted under this section shall not—

(A) affect the validity of a lease issued under the offshore lease sale that is the subject of the civil action; or

(B) except as provided in paragraph (3)(B), cause a delay in the timelines for the consideration of an application for permit to drill with respect to a lease issued under the

1 offshore lease sale that is the subject of the civil
2 action.

3 (2) REMAND; PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS
4 FOR PERMIT TO DRILL.—If, in a civil action de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1), the environmental review
6 for an offshore lease sale is found by the applicable
7 court to violate the National Environmental Policy
8 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)—

9 (A) notwithstanding subchapter II of chap-
10 ter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States
11 Code (commonly known as the “Administrative
12 Procedures Act”), the applicable court shall not
13 set aside the offshore lease sale and vacate the
14 leases issued pursuant to the sale but instead
15 remand the matter to the Secretary to resolve
16 the violation; and

17 (B) the Secretary shall continue to process
18 all applicable applications for permit to drill in
19 accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf
20 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

21 (3) NOTICE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
23 after the date on which a civil action described
24 in paragraph (1) is filed, the Secretary shall no-
25 tify the holder of any lease issued under the

1 lease sale that is the subject of the civil action
2 of the filing of the civil action.

3 (B) **TIMELINE.**—Not later than 90 days
4 after the date of receipt of a notice under sub-
5 paragraph (A), the holder of the lease may file
6 with the Secretary, and the Secretary may ap-
7 prove, a request to pause the timeline with re-
8 spect to the term of the lease during any period
9 in which the civil action is pending.

10 (g) **MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS LEASING IN THE**
11 **EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO.**—Section 104 of the Gulf of
12 Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331
13 note; Public Law 109–432) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
16 by striking “June 30, 2022” and inserting “De-
17 cember 31, 2035”;

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

20 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
22 and

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

24 “(4) any area in the South Atlantic Planning
25 Area (as designated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy

1 Management as of the date of enactment of this
 2 paragraph); or

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

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

8 “(d) EFFECT ON CERTAIN LEASES.—The moratoria
 9 under subsection (a) shall not affect valid existing leases
 10 in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

11 “(e) ENVIRONMENTAL EXCEPTIONS.—Notwith-
 12 standing subsection (a), the Secretary may issue leases in
 13 areas described in that subsection for environmental con-
 14 servation purposes, including the purposes of shore protec-
 15 tion, beach nourishment and restoration, wetlands restora-
 16 tion, and habitat protection.”.

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