

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2431

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

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 “National Integrated  
5 Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of  
6 2013”.

7 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

8 Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-  
9 mation System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-  
10 ed—

1           (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-  
2           riod at the end the following: “to better inform and  
3           provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce  
4           drought related impacts and costs”;

5           (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
6           following:

7           “(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated  
8 Drought Information System shall—

9           “(1) provide an effective drought early warning  
10          system that—

11           “(A) collects and integrates information on  
12          the key indicators of drought and drought im-  
13          pacts in order to make usable, reliable, and  
14          timely forecasts of drought, including assess-  
15          ments of the severity of drought conditions and  
16          impacts; and

17           “(B) provides such information, forecasts,  
18          and assessments on both national and regional  
19          levels;

20          “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought  
21          conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis  
22          to public and private entities engaged in drought  
23          planning and preparedness, including—

1           “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-  
2           gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-  
3           ment;

4           “(B) the private sector; and

5           “(C) the public;

6           “(3) provide timely data, information, and  
7           products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-  
8           ferences in drought conditions;

9           “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,  
10          Federal research and monitoring in support of a  
11          drought early warning system;

12          “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-  
13          ment programs and partnerships, including through  
14          the designation of one or more cooperative institutes  
15          to assist with National Integrated Drought Informa-  
16          tion System functions; and

17          “(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring  
18          activities related to drought.”; and

19          (3) by adding at the end the following:

20          “(e) REPORT.—

21                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
22                 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-  
23                 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization  
24                 Act of 2013, the Under Secretary shall transmit to  
25                 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
2 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-  
3 ate a report that contains—

4 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of  
5 the National Integrated Drought Information  
6 System program, including how the informa-  
7 tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in  
8 drought policy planning and response activities;

9 “(B) specific plans for continued develop-  
10 ment of such program, including future mile-  
11 stones; and

12 “(C) an identification of research, moni-  
13 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the  
14 predictive capability of drought early warnings  
15 that include—

16 “(i) the length and severity of  
17 droughts;

18 “(ii) the contribution of weather  
19 events to reducing the severity or ending  
20 drought conditions; and

21 “(iii) regionally specific drought im-  
22 pacts.

23 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report  
24 under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-  
25 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,

1 and local government agencies, research institutions,  
2 and the private sector.”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 4 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7 this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through  
8 2018.”.

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