

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

**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 2012”.

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 in order to make  
13           usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought,  
14           including assessments of the severity of drought  
15           conditions and impacts; and

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

19           “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought  
20           conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis  
21           to—

22           “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-  
23           gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-  
24           ment;

25           “(B) the private sector; and

1 “(C) the public;

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

5 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,  
6 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-  
7 ing system;

8 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-  
9 ment programs and partnerships; and

10 “(6) continue ongoing research activities related  
11 to drought.”; and

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

13 “(e) REPORT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
15 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-  
16 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization  
17 Act of 2012, the Under Secretary shall transmit to  
18 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of  
19 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
20 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-  
21 ate a report that contains—

22 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of  
23 the National Integrated Drought Information  
24 System program, including how the informa-

1           tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in  
2           drought policy planning and response activities;

3           “(B) specific plans for continued develop-  
4           ment of such program, including future mile-  
5           stones; and

6           “(C) an identification of research, moni-  
7           toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the  
8           predictive capability of—

9           “(i) drought early warnings;

10           “(ii) the length and severity of  
11           droughts; and

12           “(iii) the contribution of weather  
13           events to reducing the severity or ending  
14           drought conditions.

15           “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report  
16           under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-  
17           sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,  
18           and local government agencies, research institutions,  
19           and the private sector.”.

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

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

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

23           “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24           this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through  
25           2017.”.