

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1520

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that oil and gas drilling and production operations on the outer Continental Shelf must have in place the best available technology for blowout preventers and emergency shutoff equipment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2011

Mr. INSLIEE (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that oil and gas drilling and production operations on the outer Continental Shelf must have in place the best available technology for blowout preventers and emergency shutoff equipment, 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 Drilling Safe-
5 ty Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SHUTOFF SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 21(b) of the Outer
3 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1347(b)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall issue regulations that re-
9 quire, notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

10 “(i) that all oil and gas drilling and production
11 operations on the outer Continental Shelf have safe-
12 ty and environmental management systems in place
13 including blowout preventers and additional backup
14 emergency shutoff equipment such as acoustic shut-
15 off technology; and

16 “(ii) that such equipment use the best available
17 and safest technologies.

18 “(B) In issuing regulations under this paragraph, the
19 Secretary shall, based upon information provided by the
20 Secretary of Energy pursuant to section 203(a)(12) of the
21 Department of Energy Organization Act and other infor-
22 mation available to the Secretary—

23 “(i) incorporate safety technology information
24 from independent scientists and experts, academic
25 institutions, and from technology used internation-
26 ally; and

1 “(ii) consider the need for different technology
2 requirements in different environments and depths.

3 “(C) Regulations issued under this paragraph—

4 “(i) shall apply to all new oil and gas drilling
5 and production operations; and

6 “(ii) shall apply to all existing and gas drilling
7 and production operations upon the expiration of the
8 6-month period beginning on the date of the
9 issuance of the regulations.

10 “(D) Every 5 years after the date of the issuance of
11 regulations under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

12 “(i) review blowout preventer and emergency
13 shutoff equipment technology; and

14 “(ii) revise the regulations as necessary to re-
15 quire use of the best available technology in accord-
16 ance with this paragraph.”.

17 (b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
18 issue regulations under the amendment made by sub-
19 section (a) by not later than 6 months after the date of
20 enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 3. BEST AVAILABLE AND SAFEST TECHNOLOGY.**

22 Section 203 of the Department of Energy Organiza-
23 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 7133) is amended by adding at the
24 end of subsection (a) the following new paragraph:

1 “(12) Offshore oil and gas exploration and pro-
2 duction best available and safest technology identi-
3 fication, including—

4 “(A) surveying industry practices and reg-
5 ulatory requirements both domestically and
6 internationally;

7 “(B) identifying technology currently in
8 use as well as technology that is not in wide-
9 spread use, but could be adopted for widespread
10 use on a near-term basis; and

11 “(C) providing such information regarding
12 the best available and safest technology to the
13 Secretary of Interior in a timely fashion for use
14 in the implementation of the Outer Continental
15 Shelf Lands Act.”.

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