

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3584

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information
System, 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 “Drought Information
5 Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATED**
7 **DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM.**

8 (a) SYSTEM AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the Na-
9 tional Integrated Drought Information System Act of
10 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by inserting “and continue to support”
3 after “establish”; and

4 (B) by inserting before the period at the
5 end the following: “to better inform and provide
6 for more timely decisionmaking to reduce
7 drought related impacts and costs”; and

8 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
11 Drought Information System shall—

12 “(1) provide an effective drought early warning
13 system that—

14 “(A) collects and integrates information on
15 the key indicators of drought in order to make
16 usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought,
17 including assessments of the severity of drought
18 conditions and impacts; and

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

22 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
23 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
24 to—

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 in support of a drought early warn-
11 ing system;

12 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
13 ment programs and partnerships, such as partner-
14 ships with—

15 “(A) the Regional Integrated Sciences and
16 Assessments program of the National Oceanic
17 and Atmospheric Administration;

18 “(B) Cooperative Extension System offices
19 of the Department of Agriculture;

20 “(C) the National Institute of Food and
21 Agriculture;

22 “(D) the Office of the Chief Economist of
23 the Department of Agriculture;

24 “(E) the Farm Service Agency; and

1 “(F) other Federal agencies or depart-
2 ments that monitor and disseminate weather
3 and climate information; and

4 “(6) continue ongoing research activities related
5 to drought, including research activities relating to
6 length, severity, and impacts of drought and the role
7 of extreme weather events and climate variability in
8 drought.”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

16 “(7) \$14,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013
17 through 2017.”.

18 (c) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-
22 mosphere shall submit to the Committee on Com-
23 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
24 and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
25 nology of the House of Representatives a report on

1 the National Integrated Drought Information Sys-
2 tem.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
4 graph (1) shall include the following:

5 (A) An assessment of the implementation
6 of the National Integrated Drought Information
7 System, including an assessment of how the in-
8 formation, forecasts, and assessments produced
9 by such system are utilized in drought policy
10 planning and response activities.

11 (B) Specific plans for continued develop-
12 ment of the system, including future milestones.

13 (C) An identification of research, moni-
14 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
15 predictive capability of—

16 (i) drought early warnings;

17 (ii) the length and severity of
18 droughts; and

19 (iii) the contribution of weather events
20 to reducing the severity or ending drought
21 conditions.

22 (D) A list of persons in the private sector
23 with whom the Under Secretary collaborates to
24 implement the National Integrated Drought In-
25 formation System.

1 (E) A description of the outreach activities
2 conducted by the Under Secretary regarding
3 the National Integrated Drought Information
4 System.

5 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report
6 required by paragraph (1), the Under Secretary
7 shall consult with relevant Federal, regional, State,
8 tribal, and local government agencies, research insti-
9 tutions, and the private sector.

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