

Comparative Print: Changes in Existing Law for Bill number:

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Summary

- (1) 3 amendments.
- (2) 0 automated notifications.

Current Law(s) being amended

[1. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act](#)

Comparative Print: Changes in Existing Law

1. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act

[The Act of August 7, 1953, Chapter 345, as Amended]

[As Amended Through P.L. 117–169, Enacted August 16,
2022]

* * * * *

Sec. 12. RESERVATIONS.—~~(a)~~

(a) WITHDRAWAL OF UNLEASED LANDS BY THE PRESIDENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the President

~~The President~~ of the United States may, from time to time, withdraw from disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf. Beginning on the date of enactment of the Offshore Lands Authorities Act of 2025, the President shall transmit a withdrawal made under the preceding sentence to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) ACRES.— A withdrawal under paragraph (1) may not exceed an area larger than 150,000 acres in total or contiguous with any other withdrawal under such paragraph.

(B) PERIOD.— A withdrawal under paragraph (1) may not be made for a period longer than 20 years.

(C) CUMULATIVE WITHDRAWALS.— No President may, under paragraph (1), withdraw more than 500,000 acres cumulatively without obtaining Congressional approval.

(3) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.— The President may not withdraw unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf under paragraph (1) unless—

(A) the Secretary completed a quantitative and qualitative geophysical and geological mineral resource assessment of the lands to be withdrawn during the 5-year period ending on the date of such withdrawal;

(B) the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Agriculture, completed an assessment of the economic, energy, and national security value of mineral deposits identified in the mineral resource assessment completed under subparagraph (A);

(C) the Secretary completed an assessment of the expected reduction in future Federal revenues resulting from the proposed withdrawal to the Treasury, States (including from allocations made under section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note)), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund; and

(D) the Secretary submits to the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Armed Services, Energy and Natural Resources, and Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes the results of the assessments completed under this subsection.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURE.—

(A) JOINT RESOLUTION DEFINED.— For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “*joint resolution*” means only a joint resolution, which may not have a preamble, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the withdrawal made under section 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act on _____, relating to _____, and such withdrawal shall have no force or effect.’ (the blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(B) REFERRAL.— A joint resolution described in subparagraph (A) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

(C) DISCHARGE.— In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subparagraph (A) has not reported such joint resolution (or a joint resolution aimed at the same Presidential withdrawal) at the end of 20 calendar days after the submission or introduction of legislation to disapprove the withdrawal, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution and placed on the appropriate calendar of the Senate upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate.

(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.— In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subparagraph (C)) from further consideration of, a joint resolution described in subparagraph (A), it is at

any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(ii) DEBATE.— In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the resolution is not in order.

(iii) FINAL PASSAGE.— In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a resolution described in subparagraph (A), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the resolution shall occur.

(iv) APPEALS.— In the Senate, appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a resolution described in subparagraph (A) shall be decided without debate.

(v) TREATMENT IF OTHER HOUSE HAS ACTED.— If, before the passage by one House of a resolution of that House described in subparagraph (A), that House receives from the other House a resolution described in subparagraph (A), then the following procedures shall apply:

(I) NONREFERRAL.— The resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(II) FINAL PASSAGE.— With respect to a resolution described in subparagraph (A) of the House receiving the resolution—

(aa) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no resolution had been received from the other House; but

(bb) the vote on final passage shall be on the resolution of the other House.

(vi) DEBATE ON VETO MESSAGE.— In the Senate, debate on a veto message from the President on a joint resolution described in subparagraph (A), including all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, equally divided between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. No amendment to the veto message shall be in order. The vote on passage of the joint resolution following the veto message shall occur immediately following the conclusion of debate.

(E) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.— Subparagraphs (A) through (D) are enacted by Congress—

(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to procedure to be followed in this paragraph, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(ii) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

(F) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINUANCE; SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITHDRAWALS.—

(i) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINUANCE.— A withdrawal made under section 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act shall not take effect (or continue), if the Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval, described under subparagraph (A), of the withdrawal.

(ii) SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITHDRAWALS.— A withdrawal that does not take effect (or does not continue) under clause (i) may not be reissued in substantially the same form, and a new withdrawal that is substantially the same as such a withdrawal may not be issued, unless the reissued or new withdrawal is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of the joint resolution disapproving the original withdrawal.

(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW.— No determination, finding, action, or omission under this paragraph shall be subject to judicial review.

(H) SUBMISSION OF COVERED AGENCY ACTION TO CONGRESS.—

(i) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT.— Any covered agency action subject to the disapproval procedures under this subsection shall be submitted to Congress by the agency responsible for the action. Such submission must include the text of the agency action, a concise summary of the action, and the date on which the action was taken.

(ii) TRANSMITTAL.— For purposes of this subsection, the date of submission of the covered agency action to Congress shall be the later of—

(I) the date on which the agency submits the action to both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; or

(II) the date on which the agency makes the action publicly available in the Federal Register or by another publicly accessible method.

(iii) START OF PROCEDURES.— The submission of the covered agency action under clause (i) shall trigger the expedited parliamentary procedures set forth in this subsection. No resolution under this subsection may be considered in either chamber until such submission has occurred.

(iv) NOTICE OF SUBMISSION.— Upon receipt of a covered agency action, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall cause a notice of such submission to be published in the Congressional Record on the next calendar day of their respective chambers.

(5) INTEGRATION WITH 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.— The President may not make a withdrawal under paragraph (1) that conflicts with areas included in a lease sale scheduled under an oil and gas leasing program approved under Section 18.

(b) In time of war, or when the President shall so prescribe, the United States shall have the right of first refusal to purchase at the market price all or any portion of any mineral produced from the outer Continental Shelf.

(c) All leases issued under this Act, and leases, the maintenance and operation of which are authorized under this Act, shall contain or be construed to contain a provision whereby authority is vested in the Secretary, upon a recommendation of the Secretary of Defense, during a state of war or national emergency declared by the Congress or the President of the United States after the effective date of this Act, to suspend operations under any lease; and all such leases shall contain or be

construed to contain provisions for the payment of just compensation to the lessee whose operations are thus suspended.

(d) The United States reserves and retains the right to designate by and through the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, as areas restricted from exploration and operation that part of the outer Continental Shelf needed for national defense; and so long as such designation remains in effect no exploration or operations may be conducted on any part of the surface of such area except with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense; and if operations or production under any lease theretofore issued on lands within any such restricted area shall be suspended, any payment of rentals, minimum royalty, and royalty prescribed by such lease likewise shall be suspended during such period of suspension of operation and production, and the term of such lease shall be extended by adding thereto any such suspension period, and the United States shall be liable to the lessee for such compensation as is required to be paid under the Constitution of the United States.

(e) All uranium, thorium, and all other materials determined pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of section 5 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, as amended, to be peculiarly essential to the production of fissionable material, contained, in whatever concentration, in deposits in the subsoil or seabed of the outer Continental Shelf are hereby reserved for the use of the United States.

(f) The United States reserves and retains the ownership of and the right to extract all helium, under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary, contained in gas produced from any portion of the outer Continental Shelf which may be subject to any lease maintained or granted pursuant to this Act, but the helium shall be extracted from such gas so as to cause no substantial delay in the delivery of gas produced to the purchaser of such gas.

[43 U.S.C. 1341]

Summary

- (1) 3 amendments.
- (2) 0 automated notifications.

About this report

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