

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**25**

**OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA**

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 9. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) OFFSHORE LEASE SALE.—The term “off-  
4 shore lease sale” means an oil and gas lease sale—

5 (A) that is held by the Secretary in accord-  
6 ance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
7 Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), notwithstanding  
8 the requirements of section 18 of that Act (43  
9 U.S.C. 1344);

10 (B) that, with respect to lease sales in the  
11 Gulf of Mexico region, offers the same lease  
12 form, lease terms, economic conditions, and  
13 stipulations as contained in the final notice of  
14 sale entitled “Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental  
15 Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 257” (86 Fed.  
16 Reg. 54728 (October 4, 2021)); and

17 (C) that, if any acceptable bids have been  
18 received for any tract offered in the lease sale,  
19 results in the issuance of leases within 90 days

1 of the sale to the highest bids on the tracts of-  
2 fered, subject to the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
3 Management “Summary of Procedures for De-  
4 termining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and  
5 Gas Lease Sales Effective March 2016, with  
6 Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 241 and Eastern  
7 Gulf of Mexico Sale 226”.

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any other re-  
11 quirements under section 18 of the Outer Continental  
12 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) that would delay final  
13 approval of an offshore lease sale under subsection (c).

14 (c) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 18 of  
15 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344),  
16 the Secretary shall—

17 (1) conduct not fewer than 13 offshore lease  
18 sales during the 5-year period beginning on the date  
19 of enactment of this section, including 10 lease sales  
20 in the Gulf of Mexico region and 3 lease sales in the  
21 Cook Inlet Planning Area, notwithstanding lease  
22 sales which are held under the 2024–2029 Proposed  
23 Final Program (88 Fed. Reg. 67798 (October 2,  
24 2023)); and

1           (2) ensure that the 2017–2022 Outer Conti-  
2           nental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final  
3           Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and  
4           Record of Decision shall apply to lease sales con-  
5           ducted under this subsection and shall be sufficient  
6           for purposes of complying with the National Envi-  
7           ronmental Policy Act for offshore lease sales con-  
8           ducted under this subsection to the extent it does  
9           not conflict with this section.

10          (d) TIMING.—

11           (1) GULF OF MEXICO REGION.—In conducting  
12           the offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico region  
13           required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall  
14           conduct an offshore lease sale not later than—

- 15                   (A) March 31, 2024;  
16                   (B) August 31, 2024;  
17                   (C) March 31, 2025;  
18                   (D) August 31, 2025;  
19                   (E) March 31, 2026;  
20                   (F) August 31, 2026;  
21                   (G) March 31, 2027;  
22                   (H) August 31, 2027;  
23                   (I) March 31, 2028; and  
24                   (J) August 31, 2028.

1           (2) COOK INLET PLANNING AREA.—In con-  
2           ducting the offshore lease sales in the Cook Inlet  
3           Planning Area required under subsection (c), the  
4           Secretary shall conduct an offshore lease sale not  
5           later than—

6                     (A) August 31, 2025;

7                     (B) March 31, 2027; and

8                     (C) August 31, 2028.

9           (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—

10           (1) ACREAGE.—The Secretary shall offer not  
11           fewer than 80,000,000 acres for each offshore lease  
12           sale conducted under subsection (c) for offshore  
13           lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico Region. The Sec-  
14           retary shall offer not fewer than 1,000,000 acres for  
15           each region wide lease sale conducted under sub-  
16           section (c) in the Cook Inlet Planning Area.

17           (2) LOCATION.—An offshore lease sale con-  
18           ducted under subsection (c)—

19                     (A) in the Gulf of Mexico region shall offer  
20                     the areas identified in Figure S–1 of the 2017–  
21                     2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas  
22                     Leasing Proposed Final Program published on  
23                     November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean  
24                     Energy Management (as announced in the no-  
25                     tice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean En-

1           ergy Management entitled “Notice of Avail-  
2           ability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental  
3           Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-  
4           gram” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,  
5           2016))); and

6                   (B) in the Cook Inlet Planning Area shall  
7           offer the areas identified in Figure S–2 of the  
8           2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and  
9           Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published  
10          on November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean  
11          Energy Management (as announced in the no-  
12          tice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean En-  
13          ergy Management entitled “Notice of Avail-  
14          ability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental  
15          Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-  
16          gram” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,  
17          2016))).

18          (f) EFFECT OF LITIGATION.—

19                   (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action challenging an  
20          offshore lease sale conducted under this section shall  
21          not—

22                           (A) affect the validity of any lease issued  
23          under such an offshore lease sale; and

24                           (B) except as provided in paragraph  
25          (3)(B), cause a delay in the timelines for the

1 consideration of any exploration plan, develop-  
2 ment plan, development operations coordination  
3 document, applications for permit to drill, or  
4 other application for a Federal agency author-  
5 ization or approval for activities on a lease  
6 issued under such an offshore lease sale.

7 (2) REMAND; PROCESSING OF APPROVALS AND  
8 APPLICATIONS.—If, in a civil action described in  
9 paragraph (1), a court finds that the offshore lease  
10 sale was not carried out in compliance with Federal  
11 law—

12 (A) the court shall not—

13 (i) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the off-  
14 shore lease sale;

15 (ii) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the  
16 leases issued pursuant to the offshore lease  
17 sale; or

18 (iii) enjoin the Secretary from issuing  
19 leases to the highest bidders in the chal-  
20 lenged offshore lease sale;

21 (B) the court shall remand the matter to  
22 the Secretary and require the Secretary to cor-  
23 rect the noncompliance; and

24 (C) the Secretary shall continue to process  
25 all exploration plans, development plans, devel-

1           opment operations coordination documents, ap-  
2           plications for a permit to drill, and other appli-  
3           cations for a Federal agency authorization or  
4           other approval for activities requested under  
5           any lease issued under the challenged offshore  
6           lease sale in accordance with the Outer Conti-  
7           nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et  
8           seq.).

9           (3) NOTICE.—

10                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days  
11           after the date on which a civil action described  
12           in paragraph (1) is served on the United  
13           States, the Secretary shall notify the holder of  
14           any lease issued, or apparent high bidder if the  
15           lease has not yet been issued, under the off-  
16           shore lease sale that is the subject of the civil  
17           action of the filing of the civil action.

18                   (B) TIMELINE.—Not later than 90 days  
19           after the date of receipt of a notice under sub-  
20           paragraph (A), the holder of the lease may file  
21           with the Secretary, and the Secretary may ap-  
22           prove, a request to pause the timeline with re-  
23           spect to the term of the lease during any period  
24           in which the civil action is pending.

