

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6285, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA**

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 7. 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
20 of the sale to the highest bids on the tracts of-

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) ensure that the 2017–2022 Outer Conti-
25 nental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final

1 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and
2 Record of Decision shall apply to lease sales con-
3 ducted under this subsection and shall be sufficient
4 for purposes of complying with the National Envi-
5 ronmental Policy Act for offshore lease sales con-
6 ducted under this subsection to the extent it does
7 not conflict with this Act.

8 (d) TIMING.—

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

13 (A) March 31, 2024;

14 (B) August 31, 2024;

15 (C) March 31, 2025;

16 (D) August 31, 2025;

17 (E) March 31, 2026;

18 (F) August 31, 2026;

19 (G) March 31, 2027;

20 (H) August 31, 2027;

21 (I) March 31, 2028; and

22 (J) August 31, 2028.

23 (2) COOK INLET PLANNING AREA.—In con-
24 ducting the offshore lease sales in the Cook Inlet
25 Planning Area required under subsection (c), the

1 Secretary shall conduct an offshore lease sale not
2 later than—

3 (A) August 31, 2025;

4 (B) March 31, 2027; and

5 (C) August 31, 2028.

6 (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—

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

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

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

1 gram” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
2 2016))); and

3 (B) in the Cook Inlet Planning Area shall
4 offer the areas identified in Figure S–2 of the
5 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and
6 Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published
7 on November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean
8 Energy Management (as announced in the no-
9 tice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean En-
10 ergy Management entitled “Notice of Avail-
11 ability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental
12 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-
13 gram” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
14 2016))).

15 (f) EFFECT OF LITIGATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action challenging an
17 offshore lease sale conducted under this section shall
18 not—

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

21 (B) except as provided in paragraph
22 (3)(B), cause a delay in the timelines for the
23 consideration of any exploration plan, develop-
24 ment plan, development operations coordination
25 document, applications for permit to drill, or

1 other application for a Federal agency author-
2 ization or approval for activities on a lease
3 issued under such an offshore lease sale.

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

9 (A) the court shall not—

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

12 (ii) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the
13 leases issued pursuant to the offshore lease
14 sale; or

15 (iii) enjoin the Secretary from issuing
16 leases to the highest bidders in the chal-
17 lenged offshore lease sale;

18 (B) the court shall remand the matter to
19 the Secretary and require the Secretary to cor-
20 rect the noncompliance; and

21 (C) the Secretary shall continue to process
22 all exploration plans, development plans, devel-
23 opment operations coordination documents, ap-
24 plications for a permit to drill, and other appli-
25 cations for a Federal agency authorization or

1 other approval for activities requested under
2 any lease issued under the challenged offshore
3 lease sale in accordance with the Outer Conti-
4 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et
5 seq.).

6 (3) NOTICE.—

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

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

