

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3041

To direct the executive agencies to ensure continuity of certain federal permits that are required to develop the nation’s offshore energy resources.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2025

Mr. HUNT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 direct the executive agencies to ensure continuity of certain federal permits that are required to develop the nation’s offshore energy resources.

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 bill may be cited as the “Regulatory Integrity
5 for Gulf Energy Development Act of 2025” or the
6 “RIGED Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 For the purposes of this Act:

1 (a) Offshore Energy Resource Development refers to
 2 oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production activities
 3 conducted on the Outer Continental Shelf, as defined in
 4 Section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
 5 U.S.C. 1331).

6 (b) Secretary refers to the Secretaries of the Interior
 7 and/or Commerce.

8 (c) Administrator refers to the Administrator or Act-
 9 ing Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
 10 pheric Administration (NOAA).

11 **SEC. 3. CONTINUITY OF PERMITS FOR OFFSHORE ENERGY**
 12 **DEVELOPMENT.**

13 (a) FEDERAL PERMITS FOR OIL AND GAS LEAS-
 14 ING.—Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
 15 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the
 16 following:

17 “(q) CONTINUITY OF FEDERAL PERMITS.—If a pre-
 18 viously issued permit under this Act is required for off-
 19 shore oil and gas production and has expired, the Sec-
 20 retary shall, to the extent of his or her authority, ensure
 21 that all terms, conditions, and requirements of the expired
 22 permit remain in effect for any permittee previously cov-
 23 ered under the permit, as well as any similarly situated
 24 new or prospective permittee, until a new permit is final-
 25 ized and issued. In determining the equivalence of, or ap-

1 plicability to, new or prospective permittees, the Secretary
2 shall consider consistency with applicable federal laws, fed-
3 eral regulations, and the protection of human life and the
4 environment.

5 “(1) In carrying out subsection (q), the Sec-
6 retary is authorized and directed to coordinate with
7 any other Federal agency having jurisdiction over an
8 expiring or expired permit to ensure that the terms,
9 conditions, and requirements of such permit remain
10 in effect, consistent with applicable laws and regula-
11 tions.

12 “(A) To facilitate the coordination required
13 under paragraph (1), the Secretary may estab-
14 lish joint agency working groups composed of
15 representatives from relevant Federal agencies.
16 These working groups shall be responsible for
17 ensuring interagency collaboration, streamlining
18 permit continuity processes, and maintaining
19 compliance with applicable environmental and
20 regulatory requirements.

21 “(B) Establishment of joint agency work-
22 ing groups pursuant to this subsection shall be
23 notified to Congress and the President no later
24 than 15 days following establishment of the

1 working group’s creation. Notification shall in-
2 clude:

3 “(i) The names and titles of the Fed-
4 eral officials serving on the working group;

5 “(ii) The scope, objectives, and in-
6 tended outcomes of the working group; and

7 “(iii) An estimated duration of the
8 working group’s activities, expressed in
9 days.”.

10 (b) FEDERAL PERMITS FOR OIL AND GAS PRODUC-
11 TION.—Section 402(a) of the Federal Water Pollution
12 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(a)) is amended by inserting
13 before the period at the end the following:

14 “(6) If the Administrator is in the process of
15 issuing a new permit under this subsection that cov-
16 ers multiple permittees with similar operations and
17 types of discharges, and the new permit is reason-
18 ably similar to an expired permit covering such per-
19 mittees, the Administrator shall continue to apply
20 the same terms, conditions, and requirements as the
21 expired permit to both existing and prospective per-
22 mittees, until the new permit is issued.”.

23 (c) CONTINUITY OF FEDERAL BIOLOGICAL OPIN-
24 IONS.—For purposes of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
25 Management’s National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and

1 Gas Leasing Program, compliance with the Biological
2 Opinion on Federally Regulated Oil and Gas Program Ac-
3 tivities in the Gulf of Mexico, issued by the National Ma-
4 rine Fisheries Service on March 13, 2020, and amended
5 on April 24, 2021, shall be deemed compliance with all
6 applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act
7 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protec-
8 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), until the Secretary of
9 the Interior or Secretary of Commerce approves a new bio-
10 logical opinion under their respective authorities pursuant
11 to those Acts or any other applicable federal law, super-
12 seding the existing opinion and establishing new compli-
13 ance obligations.

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