

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 677

AN ACT

To establish a process to expedite the review of appeals
of certain decisions by the Department of the Interior.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expedited Appeals Re-
3 view Act” or the “EARA”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED REVIEWS.**

5 (a) REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW.—A party
6 that files an appeal of a Department of the Interior deci-
7 sion described under section 4.1(b)(2) of title 43, Code
8 of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations),
9 with the Board of Land Appeals may submit to the Board
10 of Land Appeals written notice of such party’s intent to
11 seek expedited review of the appeal. If a party submits
12 such written notice, the Board of Land Appeals shall issue
13 a final decision on the appeal by not later than the date
14 that is 6 months after the date on which such written no-
15 tice is received, except such deadline may not be earlier
16 than the date that is 18 months after the date on which
17 the appeal was initially filed with the Board of Land Ap-
18 peals.

19 (b) NO FINAL DECISION.—If the Board of Land Ap-
20 peals does not issue a final decision on an appeal by the
21 deadline described in subsection (a)—

22 (1) the Department of the Interior decision is
23 deemed to be a final agency action for purposes of
24 section 704 of title 5, United States Code; and

1 (2) notwithstanding section 706 of title 5,
2 United States Code, judicial review of such decision
3 shall be de novo.

4 (c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any
5 appeal described in subsection (a) that—

6 (1) is pending before the Board of Land Ap-
7 peals as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

8 (2) is filed with the Board of Land Appeals
9 after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (d) CONFLICT.—In the event of a conflict between
11 the deadline described in subsection (a) and a deadline
12 under section 115(h) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty
13 Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1724(h)) or section
14 525(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation
15 Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1275(b)), the deadline described
16 in subsection (a) shall control.

Passed the House of Representatives May 13, 2025.

Attest:

Clerk.

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