

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2597

To institute a reduction in force moratorium at all agencies and bureaus
of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2025

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources

A BILL

To institute a reduction in force moratorium at all agencies
and bureaus of the Department of the Interior, and
for other purposes.

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 Act may be cited as the “Saving the Department
5 of the Interior’s Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REDUCTION IN FORCE MORATORIUM AT ALL AGEN-**
2 **CIES AND BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **THE INTERIOR.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Until on or after the date that
5 full-year appropriations for the Department of the Interior
6 for fiscal year 2026 have been enacted into law, the Sec-
7 retary of the Interior may not—

8 (1) initiate or implement any reduction in force
9 at any agency or bureau of the Department of the
10 Interior; or

11 (2) conduct an involuntary separation of any
12 employee in the competitive service, any career em-
13 ployee in the excepted service, or any career ap-
14 pointee in the Senior Executive Service of any agen-
15 cy or bureau of the Department of the Interior ex-
16 cept for cause on charges of misconduct, delin-
17 quency, or performance.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—For the purposes of carrying out
19 subsection (a)—

20 (1) the terms “competitive service”, “excepted
21 service”, and “career appointee” have the meanings
22 given those terms in sections 2102, 2103, and
23 3132(a), respectively, of title 5, United States Code;
24 and

25 (2) such subsection shall be in addition to any
26 other authority with respect to adverse personnel ac-

- 1 tions, including chapter 75 of title 5, United States
- 2 Code.

