

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S.

To require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. DORGAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing.

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. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING IN 181 AREA**
4 **OF GULF OF MEXICO.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) 181 AREA.—The term “181 Area” means
7 the area identified in map 15, page 58, of the Pro-
8 posed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas
9 Leasing Program for 1997-2002 of the Minerals
10 Management Service.

1 (2) MILITARY MISSION LINE.—The term “Mili-
2 tary Mission Line” means the north-south line at
3 86°41′ W. longitude.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the
6 Minerals Management Service.

7 (b) LEASE SALE.—Except as otherwise provided in
8 this section, the Secretary shall offer the 181 Area for oil
9 and gas leasing pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf
10 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) as soon as practicable,
11 but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of
12 this Act.

13 (c) EXCLUDED AREAS.—In carrying out subsection
14 (b), the Secretary shall not offer for oil and gas leasing—

15 (1) any area east of the Military Mission Line,
16 unless the Secretary of Defense agrees in writing be-
17 fore the area is offered for lease that the area can
18 be developed in a manner that will not interfere with
19 military activities; or

20 (2) any area that is within 100 miles of the
21 coastline of the State of Florida.

22 (d) LEASING PROGRAM.—The 181 Area shall be of-
23 fered for lease under this section notwithstanding the
24 omission of the 181 Area from any outer Continental Shelf

- 1 leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental
- 2 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344).