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Bill Fact Sheet - December 5, 2025 https://legilist.com Bill page: https://legilist.com/bill/108/s/203

S 203

Big Horn Bentonite Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jan 22, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. (Sep 20, 2004)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/203

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]

Party: Republican • State: WY • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Feb 27, 2003
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 20, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the Senate on January 22, 2004. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Big Horn Bentonite Act - Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (with the consent of the Secretary of the Army) to permit mining and removal of bentonite on certain land previously withdrawn for military purposes in Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Directs the Secretary to enter into a sole-source mining and removal contract that provides for payment to the Secretary of \$1.00 per ton of bentonite removed from such land.

Sets forth contract terms and conditions.

Requires the Secretary of the Interior, upon notification by the Secretary of the Army that closure of the land is required for purposes of either national emergency, national defense, or national security to: (1) order the suspension of such authorized mining activity; and (2) close the land until the Secretary of the Army signals that the closure is no longer necessary.

Shields both Secretaries from liability for damages resulting from such closure.

Actions Timeline

- Sep 20, 2004: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.
- Sep 17, 2004: Received in the House.
- Sep 17, 2004: Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- Sep 17, 2004: Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- Sep 15, 2004: Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S9348-9349; text as passed Senate: S9348-9349)
- Sep 15, 2004: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9348-9349; text as passed Senate: S9348-9349)
- Aug 25, 2004: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici under authority of the order of the Senate of 07/22/04 with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 108-319.
- Aug 25, 2004: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici under authority of the order of the Senate of 07/22/04 with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 108-319.
- Aug 25, 2004: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 675.
- Jul 14, 2004: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- Feb 27, 2003: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 108-10.
- Jan 22, 2003: Introduced in Senate
- Jan 22, 2003: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.