

S 917

Outer Continental Shelf Reform Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: May 9, 2011

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-51.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-51. (May 17, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/917>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 17, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 2566	Related bill	Jul 19, 2011: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Outer Continental Shelf Reform Act of 2011 - Amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prescribe a program of structural reform for management of the Outer Continental Shelf, including establishing two bureaus to carry out leasing, permitting, and safety and environmental regulatory functions.

Directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish: (1) an office to carry out the royalty and revenue management functions, and (2) an Outer Continental Shelf Safety and Environmental Advisory Board.

Authorizes the Secretary to: (1) recruit and directly appoint highly qualified critical technical personnel, upon a determination that there is a severe shortage of candidates or a critical hiring need for particular positions; and (2) approve reemployment of civilian retirees to carry out a critical functions under this Act.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) prescribe and amend rules and regulations addressing operational safety and protection of the marine and coastal environment; (2) review bond and surety amounts every five years; (3) review royalty and rental rates; (4) review and report on the federal offshore oil and gas fiscal system; and (5) implement research and development to improve methodologies for characterizing resources of the Outer Continental Shelf and conditions affecting the ability to develop and use resources in a safe, sound, and environmentally responsible manner.

Instructs the Secretary to develop and implement programs for: (1) analysis and dissemination of environmental and other resource data; (2) risk assessment to address technology and development issues associated with Outer Continental Shelf energy and mineral resource activities, including safety, environmental protection, and spill response; (3) review of alleged safety violations; and (4) the collection of a non-refundable inspection fee for deposit into the Ocean Energy Enforcement Fund (established under this Act).

Cites conditions under which bids for a lease may be disqualified.

Revises requirements governing explorations plans and drilling permits.

Actions Timeline

- **May 17, 2011:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-51.
- **May 10, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2823-2824)
- **May 9, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 9, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2785)
- **May 9, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2785-2793)