

INTERIOR ACTS

PUBLIC LAW 106-148—DEC. 9, 1999

Public Law 106-148
106th Congress

An Act

Dec. 9, 1999
[H.R. 1528]

To reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

National Geologic
Mapping
Reauthorization
Act of 1999.
43 USC 31a note.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31a(a)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;
- (2) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) geologic map information is required for the sustainable and balanced development of natural resources of all types, including energy, minerals, land, water, and biological resources;

“(9) advances in digital technology and geographical information system science have made geologic map databases increasingly important as decision support tools for land and resource management; and”;

- (4) in paragraph (10) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by inserting “of surficial and bedrock deposits” after “geologic mapping”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31b) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), (8), and (10), respectively;
- (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) EDUCATION COMPONENT.—The term ‘education component’ means the education component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(3).

“(5) FEDERAL COMPONENT.—The term ‘Federal component’ means the Federal component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(1).”; and

- (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(9) STATE COMPONENT.—The term ‘State component’ means the State component of the geologic mapping program described in section 6(d)(2).”.

SEC. 4. GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM.

Section 4 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31c) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)(1)—
 - (A) in the first sentence, by striking “priorities” and inserting “national priorities and standards for”;
 - (B) in subparagraph (A)—
 - (i) by striking “develop a geologic mapping program implementation plan” and inserting “develop a 5-year strategic plan for the geologic mapping program”; and

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(ii) by striking “within 300 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997” and inserting “not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “within 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997” and inserting “not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “within 210 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997” and inserting “not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999, and biennially thereafter”;

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “will coordinate” and inserting “are coordinating”;

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking “will establish” and inserting “establish”;

(iv) in clause (iii), by striking “will lead to” and inserting “affect”;

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

“(1) FEDERAL COMPONENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a Federal geologic mapping component, the objective of which shall be to determine the geologic framework of areas determined to be vital to the economic, social, environmental, or scientific welfare of the United States.

“(B) MAPPING PRIORITIES.—For the Federal component, mapping priorities—

“(i) shall be described in the 5-year plan under section 6; and

“(ii) shall be based on—

“(I) national requirements for geologic map information in areas of multiple-issue need or areas of compelling single-issue need; and

“(II) national requirements for geologic map information in areas where mapping is required to solve critical earth science problems.

“(C) INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal component shall include interdisciplinary studies that add value to geologic mapping.

“(ii) REPRESENTATIVE CATEGORIES.—Interdisciplinary studies under clause (i) may include—

“(I) establishment of a national geologic map database under section 7;

“(II) studies that lead to the implementation of cost-effective digital methods for the acquisition, compilation, analysis, cartographic production, and dissemination of geologic map information;

“(III) paleontologic, geochronologic, and isotopic investigations that provide information critical to understanding the age and history of geologic map units;

“(IV) geophysical investigations that assist in delineating and mapping the physical characteristics and 3-dimensional distribution of geologic materials and geologic structures; and

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“(V) geochemical investigations and analytical operations that characterize the composition of geologic map units.

“(iii) USE OF RESULTS.—The results of investigations under clause (ii) shall be contributed to national databases.

“(2) STATE COMPONENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a State geologic mapping component, the objective of which shall be to establish the geologic framework of areas determined to be vital to the economic, social, environmental, or scientific welfare of individual States.

“(B) MAPPING PRIORITIES.—For the State component, mapping priorities—

“(i) shall be determined by State panels representing a broad range of users of geologic maps; and

“(ii) shall be based on—

“(I) State requirements for geologic map information in areas of multiple-issue need or areas of compelling single-issue need; and

“(II) State requirements for geologic map information in areas where mapping is required to solve critical earth science problems.

“(C) INTEGRATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE PRIORITIES.—A national panel including representatives of the Survey shall integrate the State mapping priorities under this paragraph with the Federal mapping priorities under paragraph (1).

“(D) USE OF FUNDS.—The Survey and recipients of grants under the State component shall not use more than 15.25 percent of the Federal funds made available under the State component for any fiscal year to pay indirect, servicing, or program management charges.

“(E) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities under the State component for any fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent.

“(3) EDUCATION COMPONENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The geologic mapping program shall include a geologic mapping education component for the training of geologic mappers, the objectives of which shall be—

“(i) to provide for broad education in geologic mapping and field analysis through support of field studies; and

“(ii) to develop academic programs that teach students of earth science the fundamental principles of geologic mapping and field analysis.

“(B) INVESTIGATIONS.—The education component may include the conduct of investigations, which—

“(i) shall be integrated with the Federal component and the State component; and

“(ii) shall respond to mapping priorities identified for the Federal component and the State component.

“(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The Survey and recipients of grants under the education component shall not use more than 15.25 percent of the Federal funds made available under the education component for any fiscal year to pay indirect, servicing, or program management charges.

“(D) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities under the education component for any fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent.”.

SEC. 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 5 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31d) is amended—

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(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “90 days after the date of enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997” and inserting “1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “critique the draft implementation plan” and inserting “update the 5-year plan”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “this Act” and inserting “sections 4 through 7”.

SEC. 6. GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM 5-YEAR PLAN.

The National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 is amended by striking section 6 (43 U.S.C. 31e) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 6. GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM 5-YEAR PLAN.

43 USC 31e.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall, with the advice and review of the advisory committee, prepare a 5-year plan for the geologic mapping program.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The 5-year plan shall identify—

“(1) overall priorities for the geologic mapping program; and

“(2) implementation of the overall management structure and operation of the geologic mapping program, including—

“(A) the role of the Survey in the capacity of overall management lead, including the responsibility for developing the national geologic mapping program that meets Federal needs while fostering State needs;

“(B) the responsibilities of the State geological surveys, with emphasis on mechanisms that incorporate the needs, missions, capabilities, and requirements of the State geological surveys, into the nationwide geologic mapping program;

“(C) mechanisms for identifying short- and long-term priorities for each component of the geologic mapping program, including—

“(i) for the Federal component, a priority-setting mechanism that responds to—

“(I) Federal mission requirements for geologic map information;

“(II) critical scientific problems that require geologic maps for their resolution; and

“(III) shared Federal and State needs for geologic maps, in which joint Federal-State geologic mapping projects are in the national interest;

“(ii) for the State component, a priority-setting mechanism that responds to—

“(I) specific intrastate needs for geologic map information; and

“(II) interstate needs shared by adjacent States that have common requirements; and

“(iii) for the education component, a priority-setting mechanism that responds to requirements for geologic map information that are dictated by Federal and State mission requirements;

“(D) a mechanism for adopting scientific and technical mapping standards for preparing and publishing general- and special-purpose geologic maps to—

“(i) ensure uniformity of cartographic and scientific conventions; and

“(ii) provide a basis for assessing the comparability and quality of map products; and

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“(E) a mechanism for monitoring the inventory of published and current mapping investigations nationwide to facilitate planning and information exchange and to avoid redundancy.”

SEC. 7. NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAP DATABASE.

Section 7 of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31f) is amended by striking the section heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 7. NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAP DATABASE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Survey shall establish a national geologic map database.

“(2) FUNCTION.—The database shall serve as a national catalog and archive, distributed through links to Federal and State geologic map holdings, that includes—

“(A) all maps developed under the Federal component and the education component;

“(B) the databases developed in connection with investigations under subclauses (III), (IV), and (V) of section 4(d)(1)(C)(ii); and

“(C) other maps and data that the Survey and the Association consider appropriate.”

SEC. 8. BIENNIAL REPORT.

The National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 is amended by striking section 8 (43 U.S.C. 31g) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 8. BIENNIAL REPORT.

“Not later 3 years after the date of the enactment of the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1999 and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—

“(1) describes the status of the national geologic mapping program;

“(2) describes and evaluates the progress achieved during the preceding 2 years in developing the national geologic map database; and

“(3) includes any recommendations that the Secretary may have for legislative or other action to achieve the purposes of sections 4 through 7.”

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 is amended by striking section 9 (43 U.S.C. 31h) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

“(1) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(2) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

“(3) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

“(4) \$43,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

“(5) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

“(6) \$57,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

“(7) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

43 USC 31g.
Deadline.

43 USC 31h.

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“(b) ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of any amounts appropriated for any fiscal year in excess of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2000—

“(1) 48 percent shall be available for the State component;
and

“(2) 2 percent shall be available for the education component.”.

Approved December 9, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1528 (S. 607):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106-389 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-78 accompanying S. 607 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):

Oct. 26, considered and passed House.

Nov. 19, considered and passed Senate.