Public Law 97-348
97th Congress

An Act

To protect and conserve fish and wildlife resources, and for other purposes.

Oct. 18, 1982
[S. 1018]

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

Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
16 USC 3501 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coastal Barrier Resources Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

16 USC 3501.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and the adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets and nearshore waters provide—

(A) habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife; and

(B) habitats which are essential spawning, nursery, nesting, and feeding areas for commercially and recreationally important species of finfish and shellfish, as well as other aquatic organisms such as sea turtles;

(2) coastal barriers contain resources of extraordinary scenic, scientific, recreational, natural, historic, archeological, cultural, and economic importance; which are being irretrievably damaged and lost due to development on, among, and adjacent to, such barriers;

(3) coastal barriers serve as natural storm protective buffers and are generally unsuitable for development because they are vulnerable to hurricane and other storm damage and because natural shoreline recession and the movement of unstable sediments undermine manmade structures;

(4) certain actions and programs of the Federal Government have subsidized and permitted development on coastal barriers and the result has been the loss of barrier resources, threats to human life, health, and property, and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars each year; and

(5) a program of coordinated action by Federal, State, and local governments is critical to the more appropriate use and conservation of coastal barriers.

(b) PURPOSE.—The Congress declares that it is the purpose of this Act to minimize the loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and the damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with the coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts by restricting future Federal expenditures and financial assistance which have the effect of encouraging development of coastal barriers, by establishing a Coastal Barrier Resources System, and by considering the means and measures by which the long-term conservation of these fish, wildlife, and other natural resources may be achieved.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

16 USC 3502.

For purposes of this Act—

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(1) The term "undeveloped coastal barrier" means—

(A) a depositional geologic feature (such as a bay barrier, tombolo, barrier spit, or barrier island) that—

(i) consists of unconsolidated sedimentary materials,

(ii) is subject to wave, tidal, and wind energies, and

(iii) protects landward aquatic habitats from direct wave attack; and

(B) all associated aquatic habitats, including the adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and nearshore waters;

but only if such feature and associated habitats (i) contain few manmade structures and these structures, and man's activities on such feature and within such habitats, do not significantly impede geomorphic and ecological processes, and (ii) are not included within the boundaries of an area established under Federal, State, or local law, or held by a qualified organization as defined in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, primarily for wildlife refuge, sanctuary, recreational, or natural resource conservation purposes.

26 USC 170.

(2) The term "Committees" refers to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(3) The term "financial assistance" means any form of loan, grant, guaranty, insurance, payment, rebate, subsidy, or any other form of direct or indirect Federal assistance other than—

(A) general revenue-sharing grants made under section 102 of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1972 (31 U.S.C. 1221);

(B) deposit or account insurance for customers of banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, or similar institutions;

(C) the purchase of mortgages or loans by the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association, or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation;

(D) assistance for environmental studies, planning, and assessments that are required incident to the issuance of permits or other authorizations under Federal law; and

(E) assistance pursuant to programs entirely unrelated to development, such as any Federal or federally assisted public assistance program or any Federal old-age survivors or disability insurance program.

Effective date.

Effective October 1, 1983, such term includes flood insurance described in section 1321 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4028).

95 Stat. 419.

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) The term "System unit" means any undeveloped coastal barrier, or combination of closely-related undeveloped coastal barriers, included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System established by section 4.

16 USC 3503.

SEC. 4. THE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) There is established the Coastal Barrier Resources System which shall consist of those undeveloped coastal barriers located on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States that are identified and generally depicted on the maps that are

entitled "Coastal Barrier Resources System", numbered A01 through T12, and dated September 30, 1982.

(2) Any person or persons or other entity owning or controlling land on an undeveloped coastal barrier, associated landform or any portion thereof not within the Coastal Barrier Resources System established under paragraph (1) may, within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, elect to have such land included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. This election shall be made in compliance with regulations established for this purpose by the Secretary not later than one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act; and, once made and filed in accordance with the laws regulating the sale or other transfer of land or other real property of the State in which such land is located, shall have the same force and effect as if such land had originally been included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

(b)(1) As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the maps referred to in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall be filed with the Committees by the Secretary, and each such map shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such map may be made. Each such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, and in other appropriate offices of the Service.

Maps, filing.

Public inspection.

(2) As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide copies of the maps referred to in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) to the chief executive officer of (A) each State and county or equivalent jurisdiction in which a system unit is located, (B) each State coastal zone management agency in those States which have a coastal zone management plan approved pursuant to section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1455) and in which a system unit is located, and (C) each appropriate Federal agency.

Copies, distribution.

(c) BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.—(1) Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may make such minor and technical modifications to the boundaries of system units as depicted on the maps referred to in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as are consistent with the purposes of this Act and necessary to clarify the boundaries of said system units; except that, for system units within States which have, on the date of enactment, a coastal zone management plan approved pursuant to section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1455)—

(A) each appropriate State coastal zone management agency may, within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Secretary proposals for such minor and technical modifications; and

(B) the Secretary may, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, make such minor and technical modifications to the boundaries of such system units.

(2) The Secretary shall, not less than 30 days prior to the effective date of any such boundary modification made under the authority of paragraph (1), submit written notice of such modification to (A) each of the Committees and (B) each of the appropriate officers referred to in paragraph (2) of subsection (b).

Notice submittal.

(3) The Secretary shall conduct, at least once every five years, a review of the maps referred to in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and make, in consultation with the appropriate officers referred to in

Review.

paragraph (2) of subsection (b), such minor and technical modifications to the boundaries of system units as are necessary solely to reflect changes that have occurred in the size or location of any system units as a result of natural forces.

(4) If, in the case of any minor and technical modification to the boundaries of system units made under the authority of this subsection, an appropriate chief executive officer of a State, county or equivalent jurisdiction, or State coastal zone management agency to which notice was given in accordance with this subsection files comments disagreeing with all or part of the modification and the Secretary makes a modification which is in conflict with such comments, or if the Secretary fails to adopt a modification pursuant to a proposal submitted by an appropriate State coastal zone management agency under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall submit to the chief executive officer a written justification for his failure to make modifications consistent with such comments or proposals.

16 USC 3504.

SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL EXPENDITURES AFFECTING THE SYSTEM.

(a) Except as provided in section 6, no new expenditures or new financial assistance may be made available under authority of any Federal law for any purpose within the Coastal Barrier Resources System, including, but not limited to—

(1) the construction or purchase of any structure, appurtenance, facility, or related infrastructure;

(2) the construction or purchase of any road, airport, boat landing facility, or other facility on, or bridge or causeway to, any System unit; and

(3) the carrying out of any project to prevent the erosion of, or to otherwise stabilize, any inlet, shoreline, or inshore area, except that such assistance and expenditures may be made available on units designated pursuant to section 4 on maps numbered S01 through S08 for purposes other than encouraging development and, in all units, in cases where an emergency threatens life, land, and property immediately adjacent to that unit.

(b) An expenditure or financial assistance made available under authority of Federal law shall, for purposes of this Act, be a new expenditure or new financial assistance if—

(1) in any case with respect to which specific appropriations are required, no money for construction or purchase purposes was appropriated before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) no legally binding commitment for the expenditure or financial assistance was made before such date of enactment.

16 USC 3505.

SEC. 6. EXCEPTIONS.

(a) Notwithstanding section 5, the appropriate Federal officer, after consultation with the Secretary, may make Federal expenditures or financial assistance available within the Coastal Barrier Resources System for—

(1) any use or facility necessary for the exploration, extraction, or transportation of energy resources which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to coastal water areas because the use or facility requires access to the coastal water body;

(2) the maintenance of existing channel improvements and related structures, such as jetties, and including the disposal of dredge materials related to such improvements;

(3) the maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, or repair, but not the expansion, of publicly-owned or publicly-operated roads, structures, or facilities that are essential links in a larger network or system;

(4) military activities essential to national security;

(5) the construction, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of Coast Guard facilities and access thereto; and

(6) any of the following actions or projects, but only if the making available of expenditures or assistance therefor is consistent with the purposes of this Act:

(A) Projects for the study, management, protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitats, including, but not limited to, acquisition of fish and wildlife habitats and related lands, stabilization projects for fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational projects.

(B) The establishment, operation, and maintenance of air and water navigation aids and devices, and for access thereto.

(C) Projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-4 through 11) and the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.). 16 USC 460*l*-4.

(D) Scientific research, including but not limited to aeronautical, atmospheric, space, geologic, marine, fish and wildlife and other research, development, and applications.

(E) Assistance for emergency actions essential to the saving of lives and the protection of property and the public health and safety, if such actions are performed pursuant to sections 305 and 306 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5145 and 5146) and section 1362 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4103) and are limited to actions that are necessary to alleviate the emergency.

(F) The maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, or repair, but not the expansion, of publicly owned or publicly operated roads, structures, or facilities.

(G) Nonstructural projects for shoreline stabilization that are designed to mimic, enhance, or restore natural stabilization systems.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a)(2), a channel improvement or a related structure shall be treated as an existing improvement or an existing related structure only if all, or a portion, of the moneys for such improvement or structure was appropriated before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. 16 USC 3506.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, on behalf of each Federal agency concerned, make written certification that each such agency has complied with the provisions of this Act during each fiscal year beginning after September 30, 1982. Such certification shall be submitted on an annual basis to the House of Representatives and the Senate pursuant to the schedule required under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Submittal to Congress. 31 USC 1301 note.

16 USC 3507.

SEC. 8. PRIORITY OF LAWS.

Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as indicating an intent on the part of the Congress to change the existing relationship of other Federal laws to the law of a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or to relieve any person of any obligation imposed by any law of any State, or political subdivision of a State. No provision of this Act shall be construed to invalidate any provision of State or local law unless there is a direct conflict between such provision and the law of the State, or political subdivision of the State, so that the two cannot be reconciled or consistently stand together. This Act shall in no way be interpreted to interfere with a State's right to protect, rehabilitate, preserve, and restore lands within its established boundary.

16 USC 3508.

SEC. 9. SEPARABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

16 USC 3509.

SEC. 10. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the close of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committees a report regarding the System.

(b) CONSULTATION IN PREPARING REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare the report required under subsection (a) in consultation with the Governors of the States in which System units are located and with the coastal zone management agencies of the States in which System units are located and after providing opportunity for, and considering, public comment.

(c) REPORT CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall contain—

(1) recommendations for the conservation of the fish, wildlife, and other natural resources of the System based on an evaluation and comparison of all management alternatives, and combinations thereof, such as State and local actions (including management plans approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.)), Federal actions (including acquisition for administration as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System), and initiatives by private organizations and individuals;

(2) recommendations for additions to, or deletions from, the Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for modifications to the boundaries of System units;

(3) a summary of the comments received from the Governors of the States, State coastal zone management agencies, other government officials, and the public regarding the System; and

(4) an analysis of the effect, if any, that general revenue sharing grants made under section 102 of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1972 (31 U.S.C. 1221) have had on undeveloped coastal barriers.

SEC. 11. AMENDMENTS REGARDING FLOOD INSURANCE.

(a) Section 1321 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4028) is amended to read as follows:

95 Stat. 419.

"UNDEVELOPED COASTAL BARRIERS

"SEC. 1321. No new flood insurance coverage may be provided under this title on or after October 1, 1983, for any new construction or substantial improvements of structures located on any coastal barrier within the Coastal Barrier Resources System established by section 4 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. A federally insured financial institution may make loans secured by structures which are not eligible for flood insurance by reason of this section.". *Ante*, p. 1654.

(b) Section 341(d)(2) of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35) is repealed. 95 Stat. 418.

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 42 USC 4028 note. 16 USC 3510.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior $1,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1982, and ending September 30, 1985, for purposes of carrying out sections 4 and 10.

Approved October 18, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1018 (H.R. 3252):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 97-841, pt. I accompanying H.R. 3252 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) and No. 97-928 (Comm. of Conference).
SENATE REPORT No. 97-419 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
Sept. 23, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 28, H.R. 3252 considered and passed House; S. 1018, amended, passed in lieu.
Oct. 1, Senate and House agreed to conference report.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 18, No. 42 (1982):
Oct. 18, Presidential statement.