

Union Calendar No. 56

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1716

[Report No. 116–81]

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2019

Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY 23, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CRIST, Ms. GABBARD, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas

MAY 23, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2019]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Coastal Communities*
5 *Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”.*

6 **SEC. 2. STATE AND UNITED STATES DEFINED.**

7 *Section 12403 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Re-*
8 *search And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3702) is*
9 *amended—*

10 *(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-*
11 *graph (4);*

12 *(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-*
13 *lowing:*

14 *“(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each State*
15 *of the United States, the District of Columbia, the*
16 *Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa,*
17 *Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana*
18 *Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and*
19 *any other territory or possession of the United*
20 *States.”; and*

21 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

22 *“(5) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’*
23 *means the States, collectively.”.*

1 **SEC. 3. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESS-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 12406 of the Federal Ocean
4 Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33
5 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection
7 (d); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) *COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.*—

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary, through the
12 program established under subsection (a), shall con-
13 duct an ocean acidification coastal community vul-
14 nerability assessment, and issue a corresponding pub-
15 lic report, which shall be updated at least once every
16 7 years.

17 “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The assessment conducted
18 under paragraph (1) shall—

19 “(A) identify the United States coastal com-
20 munities, including island communities, low-
21 population rural communities, and subsistence
22 communities, that are most dependent on coastal
23 and ocean resources that may be impacted by
24 ocean acidification;

25 “(B) assess the nature of the social and eco-
26 nomic vulnerabilities of those communities, in-

1 *cluding the economic impact on local or regional*
2 *commercial fisheries and recreational opportuni-*
3 *ties;*

4 “(C) *identify the ocean acidification im-*
5 *pacts that might harm those communities, in-*
6 *cluding impacts from changes in ocean and*
7 *coastal marine resources that are not managed*
8 *by the Federal Government;*

9 “(D) *identify key knowledge gaps where re-*
10 *search could be devoted to better understand the*
11 *possible impacts of ocean acidification on those*
12 *communities, the risks and threats facing those*
13 *communities, and possible adaptation strategies*
14 *for those communities; and*

15 “(E) *be conducted in collaboration with ex-*
16 *perts, indigenous knowledge groups, and stake-*
17 *holders who are familiar with the unique eco-*
18 *nomi, social, ecological, geographic, and re-*
19 *source concerns of coastal communities in the*
20 *United States, including representatives of—*

21 “(i) *the National Marine Fisheries*
22 *Service and the Office for Coastal Manage-*
23 *ment of the National Oceanic and Atmos-*
24 *pheric Administration;*

1 “(ii) *National Integrated Coastal and*
2 *Ocean Observation System regional infor-*
3 *mation coordination entities established*
4 *under section 12304(c)(4) of the Integrated*
5 *Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act*
6 *of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)(4));*

7 “(iii) *regional ocean acidification net-*
8 *works; and*

9 “(iv) *State sea grant programs (as de-*
10 *defined in section 203 of the National Sea*
11 *Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C.*
12 *1122)).*

13 “(c) *SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNERABILITY*
14 *ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLANNING.—In*
15 *carrying out the program established under subsection (a),*
16 *the Secretary shall collaborate with State, local, and tribal*
17 *government entities that are conducting or have completed*
18 *vulnerability assessments, strategic research planning, or*
19 *other similar activities related to ocean acidification and*
20 *its impacts on coastal communities, for the purpose of—*

21 “(1) *determining whether such activities can be*
22 *used as a model for other communities; and*

23 “(2) *identifying opportunities for the National*
24 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other*
25 *relevant Federal agencies to support such activities.”.*

1 (b) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section
2 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research
3 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by striking “including information” and in-
6 serting the following: “including—

7 “(A) information”;

8 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
9 ing “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(B) an ongoing mechanism that allows af-
12 fected industry members, coastal stakeholders,
13 non-Federal resource managers, community
14 acidification networks, indigenous knowledge
15 groups, and scientific experts not employed by
16 the Federal Government to provide input on re-
17 search, data, and monitoring that is necessary to
18 support on-the-ground management, decision-
19 making, and adaptation related to ocean acidifi-
20 cation and its impacts.”.

21 (c) STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—Section 12405 of
22 the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring
23 Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and”
2 after the semicolon;

3 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period
4 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(10) make recommendations for research that
7 should be conducted, including in the social sciences
8 and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps
9 identified in the community vulnerability assessment
10 report conducted under section 12406(b).”; and

11 (2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, tribal gov-
12 ernments, indigenous knowledge groups,” after “in-
13 dustry”.

14 (d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
15 12409(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And
16 Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3708(a)) is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 “(a) NOAA.—There are authorized to be appropriated
19 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
20 to carry out the purposes of this subtitle \$2,700,000 for each
21 of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

22 (e) *REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VUL-*
23 *NERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH*
24 *PLANNING.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
25 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National

1 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to*
2 *Congress a report on the efforts of the National Oceanic and*
3 *Atmospheric Administration to support State, local, and*
4 *tribal community vulnerability assessments, strategic re-*
5 *search and planning, and monitoring needs, pursuant to*
6 *section 12406(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Re-*
7 *search And Monitoring Act of 2009 (as added by subsection*
8 *(a) of this section).*

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