

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9238

To accelerate the commercialization of marine energy technologies, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2024

Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. KUSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To accelerate the commercialization of marine energy technologies, 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 “Marine Energy Tech-  
5 nologies Acceleration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MARINE ENERGY ACCELERATION.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Ma-  
2           rine Energy Acceleration Fund established under  
3           subsection (b).

4           (2) MARINE ENERGY.—The term “marine en-  
5           ergy” has the meaning given that term in section  
6           632 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of  
7           2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211).

8           (3) NATIONAL MARINE ENERGY CENTERS.—  
9           The term “National Marine Energy Centers” means  
10          the National Marine Energy Centers referred to in,  
11          or established under, section 636 of the Energy  
12          Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C.  
13          17215).

14          (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
15          the Secretary of Energy.

16          (b) MARINE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES ACCELERA-  
17          TION FUND.—

18           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
19           tablish a fund, to be known as the “Marine Energy  
20           Technologies Acceleration Fund”.

21           (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
22           There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
23           \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.

24          (c) MARINE ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
2 competitive solicitations for not fewer than twenty  
3 marine energy technology demonstration projects  
4 that export power to microgrids, community grids,  
5 or utility-scale grids.

6           (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
7 section, the Secretary may coordinate with the Na-  
8 tional Marine Energy Centers, non-profits that pro-  
9 mote the growth and development of the blue econ-  
10 omy, universities with relevant facilities and access  
11 to marine energy resources, and other entities with  
12 proven technical expertise to support marine energy  
13 demonstration projects.

14           (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,  
15 the Secretary shall prioritize—

16           (A) projects that integrate marine energy  
17 technologies with existing onshore and offshore  
18 transmission infrastructure, nearshore marine  
19 structures, or projects with all necessary local,  
20 State, and Federal licenses or permits in place;

21           (B) open water prototype testing for more  
22 mature and advanced microgrid, community  
23 grid, or utility-scale grid marine energy tech-  
24 nologies nearing market adoption;

1 (C) projects that support energy resilience  
2 and economic sustainability for rural and re-  
3 mote disadvantaged communities, Tribal com-  
4 munities, and communities of color; and

5 (D) projects that power ocean-based sci-  
6 entific research and education, and support  
7 workforce development, national security, and  
8 commercial activities limited by the availability  
9 of existing energy resources.

10 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,  
11 \$600,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to  
12 carry out this subsection.

13 (d) ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE ENERGY TECH-  
14 NOLOGIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
16 competitive solicitations for—

17 (A) research and development projects to  
18 advance marine energy technologies; and

19 (B) upgrades to research and development  
20 facilities that advance marine energy tech-  
21 nologies.

22 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
23 section, the Secretary may coordinate with the Na-  
24 tional Marine Energy Centers, non-profits that pro-  
25 mote the growth and development of the blue econ-

1 omy, universities with relevant facilities and access  
2 to marine energy resources, entities with all nec-  
3 essary local, State, and Federal licenses or permits  
4 in place, National Laboratories, Federal agencies in-  
5 volved in the development of marine energy tech-  
6 nology, other existing marine energy research and  
7 development programs, and other entities with prov-  
8 en technical expertise to support marine energy re-  
9 search, development, and commercialization.

10 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,  
11 the Secretary shall prioritize research and develop-  
12 ment projects that—

13 (A) rapidly design, fabricate, and test ma-  
14 rine energy systems, subsystems, components,  
15 controls, domestic manufacturing, and materials  
16 in order to advance efficiency, reduce costs, re-  
17 duce environmental impacts, increase power  
18 production, and improve reliability at a variety  
19 of technology readiness levels;

20 (B) can be used to educate the public, pol-  
21 icymakers, investors, educators, and other  
22 stakeholders about the potential for deployment  
23 of marine energy technologies, and identify the  
24 needs and concerns of local communities where  
25 projects may be placed; and

1 (C) support the development of tech-  
2 nologies to monitor and mitigate impacts to ma-  
3 rine and coastal ecosystems and communities.

4 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund—

5 (A) \$230,000,000 shall be available to the  
6 Secretary for technology research and develop-  
7 ment activities under this subsection; and

8 (B) \$20,000,000 shall be available to the  
9 Secretary for providing marine energy and edu-  
10 cation activities under this subsection through  
11 the National Marine Energy Centers.

12 (e) ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICAL RESOURCE POTEN-  
13 TIAL.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-  
15 tion with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
16 ministration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-  
17 ment, and other agencies, as appropriate, shall as-  
18 sess the technical resource potential of marine en-  
19 ergy at not fewer than 50 sites that previous agency  
20 assessments and modeling have determined to have  
21 significant marine energy potential.

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sub-  
23 section, the Secretary shall—

1 (A) develop in-depth marine energy re-  
2 source and conditions characterizations for each  
3 site;

4 (B) deploy environmental monitoring tech-  
5 nologies, tools, and data collection to under-  
6 stand and mitigate potential environmental  
7 risks, characterize potential conflicts with other  
8 users of the local marine resources, optimize  
9 marine energy devices and arrays, and reduce  
10 costs;

11 (C) ensure, to the maximum extent prac-  
12 ticable, that the sites are geographically distrib-  
13 uted to assess marine energy resources and  
14 technologies in different regions of the United  
15 States;

16 (D) where applicable, carry out technical  
17 resource assessments in coordination with Re-  
18 gional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oce-  
19 anic and Atmospheric Administration Office for  
20 Coastal Management; and

21 (E) use such technical resource assess-  
22 ments to inform the location of the marine en-  
23 ergy technology demonstration projects under  
24 subsection (c).

1           (3) DATA SHARING.—Data collected under this  
2 subsection shall be shared with public data reposi-  
3 tories for use among regional ocean data portals and  
4 partnerships.

5           (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,  
6 \$50,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to  
7 carry out this subsection.

8 (f) IMPROVEMENT OF PERMITTING.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-  
10 tion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commis-  
11 sion, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the  
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
13 the Corps of Engineers, and other agencies as need-  
14 ed, shall convene a task force with the appropriate  
15 Federal and State agencies to prepare a report  
16 that—

17                   (A) describes any barriers under the juris-  
18 diction of such agencies to the development of  
19 marine energy technology projects; and

20                   (B) provides recommendations on reducing  
21 such barriers, including identification and de-  
22 termination of opportunities to improve the reg-  
23 ulatory process associated with the authorities  
24 required to deploy and license marine energy



1           technology projects, consistent with the Na-  
2           tional Environmental Policy Act.

3           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The task force convened  
4           under paragraph (1) shall—

5                   (A) develop recommendations for efficient  
6                   permitting processes that reduce the time, cost,  
7                   and uncertainty for marine energy projects,  
8                   consistent with the National Environmental  
9                   Policy Act;

10                   (B) determine whether additional staff are  
11                   required to be hired and trained at the appro-  
12                   priate Federal agencies to process permits and  
13                   conduct environmental reviews in a timely and  
14                   efficient manner;

15                   (C) conduct outreach to stakeholders;

16                   (D) facilitate Federal coordination with  
17                   State permitting processes for marine energy  
18                   projects, including by providing staff training  
19                   for State and territory permitting agencies; and

20                   (E) not later than 1 year after the date of  
21                   enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the  
22                   report prepared under paragraph (1).

23           (3) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund, to  
24           carry out this subsection—

1 (A) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the  
2 Department of Energy;

3 (B) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the  
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

5 (C) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the  
6 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

7 (g) WORKFORCE.—

8 (1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after  
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
10 shall conduct a national assessment of—

11 (A) the prospective marine energy work-  
12 force and hiring needs; and

13 (B) the educational pathways and pro-  
14 grams that would address those needs.

15 (2) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary  
16 shall launch workforce development programs based  
17 on the assessment conducted under paragraph (1),  
18 in partnership with the National Marine Energy  
19 Centers, the marine energy industry, institutions of  
20 higher education, labor unions, non-profits, and ca-  
21 reer and technical education programs.

22 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,  
23 the Secretary shall prioritize workforce development  
24 programs in communities near the location of the

1 marine energy technology demonstration projects  
2 under subsection (c).

3 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,  
4 \$85,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to  
5 carry out this subsection.

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