

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3161

To amend title 10, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2019

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. NORCROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, 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 “National Oceano-
5 graphic Partnership Program Reauthorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL OCEANO-**
2 **GRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **ADDITIONAL PURPOSE.**—Section 8931(b)(2) of
4 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
8 paragraph (C); and

9 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
10 lowing new subparagraph (B):

11 “(B) soliciting, accepting, and executing
12 oceanographic research and education projects
13 funded by private grants or contracts that con-
14 tribute to assuring national security, advancing
15 economic development, protecting quality of life,
16 and strengthening science education and com-
17 munication through improved knowledge of the
18 ocean; and”.

19 (b) **NATIONAL OCEAN RESEARCH LEADERSHIP**
20 **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP.**—Subsection (b) of section 8932
21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by striking paragraph (10);

23 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through
24 (14) as paragraphs (12) through (15), respectively;
25 and

1 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
2 lowing new paragraphs (10) and (11):

3 “(10) The Director of the Bureau of Ocean En-
4 ergy Management of the Department of the Interior.

5 “(11) The Director of the Bureau of Safety and
6 Environmental Enforcement of the Department of
7 the Interior.”.

8 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (e) of such section
9 is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
11 striking “Congress” and inserting “the appropriate
12 committees of Congress”;

13 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “description of
14 activities of the program carried out during the fis-
15 cal year before the fiscal year in which the report is
16 prepared, together with a”;

17 (3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(2) A description of activities of the program
20 carried out during the fiscal year before the fiscal
21 year in which the report is prepared, including the
22 following—

23 “(A) an analysis of the extent to which
24 those activities advanced the purpose of the Na-

1 tional Oceanographic Partnership Program as
2 described in section 8931(b) of this title;

3 “(B) a report on the total budget require-
4 ment of each project carried out as part of the
5 project; and

6 “(C) a report on the sources of funding of
7 each completed project.”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (3)—

9 (A) by striking “expected” and inserting
10 “planned”;

11 (B) by striking “year.” and inserting
12 “year, including—”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following new
14 subparagraphs:

15 “(A) a statement of objectives for each
16 such project and a description of how such
17 projects will advance the purpose of the Na-
18 tional Oceanographic Partnership Program as
19 described in section 8931(b) of this title;

20 “(B) an estimated budget for planned
21 projects; and

22 “(C) a description of any funds committed
23 to support such projects, either by Federal
24 partners or through private grants or con-
25 tracts.”.

1 (d) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OFFICE.—Subsection
2 (f) of such section is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
4 following new sentence: “To be considered qualified
5 to compete to be selected as an operator, an entity
6 shall demonstrate strong ties to relevant oceano-
7 graphic industries, academia and other research in-
8 stitutions, and Federal agencies, and have experi-
9 ence managing interagency programs and oceano-
10 graphic programs with participation from public and
11 private entities.”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
14 and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-
15 tively; and

16 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
17 the following new subparagraph (C):

18 “(C) To solicit, accept, and execute ocean-
19 graphic research and education projects
20 aligned with the purpose of the program and
21 funded by private contracts, grants, and dona-
22 tions, on behalf of, and in consultation with the
23 Council in accordance with subsection (g).”.

1 (e) GRANT AND CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Such sec-
2 tion is further amended by striking subsection (g) and in-
3 serting the following new subsection (g):

4 “(g) GRANT AND CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To carry
5 out the purpose of the National Oceanographic Partner-
6 ship Program, under section 8921(b) of this title, the
7 Council shall have, in addition to other powers otherwise
8 given it under this section, the following authorities:

9 “(1) The authority to authorize one or more of
10 the departments or agencies represented on the
11 Council to enter into contracts and make grants,
12 and establish and manage new collaborative pro-
13 grams as determined necessary to address emerging
14 science priorities using funds appropriated pursuant
15 to an authorization or appropriations for the Na-
16 tional Oceanographic Partnership Program, for the
17 purpose of implementing the program and carrying
18 out the responsibilities of the Council.

19 “(2) The authority to authorize the Program
20 Office, on behalf of the Council, to accept funds, in-
21 cluding fines and penalties, from other Federal de-
22 partments and agencies, and to enter into contracts
23 and award grants.

24 “(3) The authority to authorize the Program
25 Office, on behalf of the Council, to solicit, accept

1 and execute oceanographic research projects funded
2 by private contracts, grants, and donations.”.

3 (f) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
4 FINED.—Such section is further amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In
7 this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
8 gress’ means—

9 “(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
10 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and
11 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House
12 of Representatives; and

13 “(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
14 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
15 tation, and the Committee on Energy and Natural
16 Resources of the Senate.”.

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