

# Union Calendar No. 413

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3228

**[Report No. 117-572, Part I]**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve science, data, and services that enable sound decision making in response to coastal flood risk, including impacts of sea level rise, storm events, changing Great Lakes water levels, and land subsidence.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on 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

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Additional sponsor: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

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

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 13, 2021]

# **A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve science, data, and services that enable sound decision making in response to coastal flood risk, including impacts of sea level rise, storm events, changing Great Lakes water levels, and land subsidence.

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. AUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**  
4 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.**

5 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in con-*  
6 *sultation with other Federal agencies, develop within the*  
7 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a com-*  
8 *prehensive suite of coastal flood and coastal land loss, sea*  
9 *level rise, Great Lakes bathymetry water level, and vertical*  
10 *land motion data, products, and services, and conduct the*  
11 *research and development necessary to support those prod-*  
12 *ucts and services that—*

13 *(1) augment existing capacities and combine ex-*  
14 *isting observations, modeling, predictions, products*  
15 *and services into a coordinated decision-support*  
16 *framework;*

17 *(2) produce and maintain authoritative and*  
18 *timely data, maps, and information services, includ-*  
19 *ing improving existing and new information products*  
20 *and services targeted to end-user needs, that allow*  
21 *coastal communities across the United States to plan*  
22 *for present and future coastal flood and coastal land*  
23 *loss risk; and*

24 *(3) engage with, ensure accessibility by, and pro-*  
25 *vide technical assistance to, end users, with par-*

1        *ticular attention to historically underserved and at*  
2        *risk communities and populations, and also including*  
3        *other Federal agencies, regional ocean partnerships,*  
4        *states, local governments, Tribal governments, and In-*  
5        *igenous communities on the appropriate application*  
6        *of these data and tools and to better assess informa-*  
7        *tion gaps, needs, and solutions relating to the risk*  
8        *posed by coastal flooding and coastal land loss, in-*  
9        *cluding sea level rise.*

10        *(b) DATA ARCHIVING.—The Administrator shall pub-*  
11        *lish and maintain archives of the data and metadata gen-*  
12        *erated under this Act and shall maximize distribution, ac-*  
13        *cess, and use of such data and metadata.*

14        *(c) USE OF EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The*  
15        *Administrator may consult with and seek input from exist-*  
16        *ing agency advisory committees to provide recommenda-*  
17        *tions on systems, products, and services relating to coastal*  
18        *flooding and coastal land loss, including sea level rise.*

19        *(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER FEDERAL*  
20        *AGENCIES.—To assist in carrying out this Act and to fa-*  
21        *cilitate collaboration, the Administrator may provide tech-*  
22        *nical assistance to other Federal agencies on a reimbursable*  
23        *or non-reimbursable basis, including by entering into an*  
24        *agreement with another Federal agency to detail, for a pe-*  
25        *riod of not more than 3 years, an employee of the National*

1 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to such other*  
2 *Federal agency.*

3 (e) *INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.*—*The Adminis-*  
4 *trator, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may*  
5 *work with international counterparts to provide and receive*  
6 *technical assistance, data sharing, and capacity building*  
7 *on matters pertaining to coastal flooding and coastal land*  
8 *loss, sea level rise, and inundation, including participation*  
9 *in relevant international bodies.*

10 (f) *REPORT.*—*The Administrator shall, not later than*  
11 *1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and every*  
12 *3 years thereafter, provide the Committee on Natural Re-*  
13 *sources of the House of Representatives and the Committee*  
14 *on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate*  
15 *with a report on actions taken to implement this Act and*  
16 *containing an evaluation of the need to expand and im-*  
17 *prove agency observations, modeling, predictions, products,*  
18 *and services to—*

19 (1) *improve the understanding of the processes*  
20 *that drive coastal flood and coastal land loss risk, in-*  
21 *cluding sea level rise, storm events, changing Great*  
22 *Lakes water levels, and land subsidence; and*

23 (2) *track and report how observed rates of sea*  
24 *level rise compare to the sea level rise trends and pre-*

1        *dictions published within the quadrennial National*  
2        *Climate Assessments and related reports.*

3        *(g) ADMINISTRATOR.—In this section, the term “Ad-*  
4        *ministrator” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting*  
5        *through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-*  
6        *mospheric Administration.*

7        *(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry*  
8        *out this Section, there are authorized to be appropriated*  
9        *\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.*

10    **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.**

11        *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science*  
12        *and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Adminis-*  
13        *trator, shall—*

14                *(1) facilitate interagency cooperation and align-*  
15                *ment of Federal Government activities conducted with*  
16                *respect to coastal flooding and coastal land loss, in-*  
17                *cluding sea level rise, to improve the ability of the*  
18                *United States to prepare for, avoid, mitigate, respond*  
19                *to, and recover from potentially devastating impacts;*  
20                *and*

21                *(2) coordinate the activities of the interagency*  
22                *subcommittee established under subsection (b).*

23        *(b) COASTAL FLOODING, COASTAL LAND LOSS, AND*  
24        *SEA LEVEL RISE SUBCOMMITTEE.—*

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after  
2           the date of enactment of this Act, the President, act-  
3           ing through the appropriate interagency committee or  
4           task force, shall establish an interagency subcommittee  
5           on coastal flooding, coastal land loss, and sea level  
6           rise (referred to in this section as the “Sub-  
7           committee”).

8           (2) *PURPOSES.*—The Subcommittee shall—

9           (A) examine the latest science and tech-  
10          nologies for measuring, predicting, and deliv-  
11          ering information related to coastal flood and  
12          coastal land loss risk, including sea level rise;

13          (B) coordinate executive branch actions and  
14          activities that improve measurements, pre-  
15          dictions, and service delivery of information re-  
16          lated to coastal flood and coastal land loss risk,  
17          including sea level rise;

18          (C) identify gaps in observations, data, in-  
19          formation, and modeling relating to coastal flood  
20          and coastal land loss risk and ensure that agen-  
21          cy activities relating to coastal flood and coastal  
22          land loss risk are complementary;

23          (D) consult and coordinate with other inter-  
24          agency climate and ocean policy efforts and bod-  
25          ies as appropriate;

1           (E) coordinate the scientific efforts of Fed-  
2           eral agencies and the provision of data and tech-  
3           nical assistance from such agencies on matters  
4           relating to coastal flooding and coastal land loss;  
5           and

6           (F) define and prioritize needs from other  
7           Federal agencies that could be addressed by en-  
8           hancements to Federal data and services, includ-  
9           ing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
10          tration products and services.

11          (3) *LEADERSHIP.*—The Subcommittee shall be  
12          co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and  
13          Technology Policy and the Administrator.

14          (4) *MEMBERSHIP.*—The Subcommittee shall be  
15          composed of representatives of each of the following  
16          agencies:

17                 (A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
18                 Administration.

19                 (B) The National Aeronautics and Space  
20                 Administration.

21                 (C) The United States Geological Survey.

22                 (D) The United States Army Corps of Engi-  
23                 neers.

24                 (E) The Federal Emergency Management  
25                 Administration.



1           (F) *The Environmental Protection Agency.*

2           (G) *The Department of Defense.*

3           (H) *The Department of Energy.*

4           (I) *The National Science Foundation.*

5           (J) *Such other White House offices and*  
6 *Federal agencies the Director of the Office of*  
7 *Science and Technology Policy determines ap-*  
8 *propriate.*

9           (5) *AGREEMENTS.—*

10           (A) *IN GENERAL.—To carry out activities*  
11 *under this Act, the heads of agencies represented*  
12 *on the committee may enter into agreements*  
13 *with each other, and transfer, receive, and ex-*  
14 *pend funds made available by a Federal or State*  
15 *agency or any person.*

16           (B) *NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE*  
17 *ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND*  
18 *ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—The Adminis-*  
19 *trator of the National Aeronautics and Space*  
20 *Administration and the Administrator shall*  
21 *enter into an interagency agreement providing*  
22 *for cooperation and collaboration in the develop-*  
23 *ment of sea level rise and coastal flood and coast-*  
24 *al land loss related instruments, technologies,*

1           *data sets, and products in accordance with this*  
2           *Act.*

3                   (C) *UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY*  
4                   *AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AD-*  
5                   *MINISTRATION.—The Director of the United*  
6                   *States Geological Survey and the Administrator*  
7                   *shall enter into an interagency agreement pro-*  
8                   *viding for cooperation and collaboration in the*  
9                   *development, quality control, processing, and de-*  
10                   *livery of coastal hazards and sea level rise re-*  
11                   *lated data, modeling, mapping, and services in*  
12                   *accordance with this Act.*

13                   (6) *INTERNATIONAL, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, AND*  
14                   *COMMERCIAL SECTOR COLLABORATION.—The heads of*  
15                   *each Federal agency participating in the Sub-*  
16                   *committee established under paragraph (1) shall, to*  
17                   *the extent practicable, engage and cooperate with the*  
18                   *international community, academic community, and*  
19                   *commercial sector on the observational infrastructure,*  
20                   *data, scientific research, and service delivery and*  
21                   *technical assistance necessary to advance the moni-*  
22                   *toring, forecasting, and prediction of, preparation for,*  
23                   *and protection from coastal flooding and coastal land*  
24                   *loss, sea level rise, changing Great Lakes water levels,*  
25                   *and land subsidence.*

1           (c) *ADMINISTRATOR*.—*In this section, the term “Ad-*  
2 *ministrator” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting*  
3 *through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-*  
4 *mospheric Administration.*

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