

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. _____

To reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Beginning on page 43, strike line 18, and all that

2 follows through page 49, line 16, and insert the following:g

3 **SEC. 115. IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC**

4 **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ADDITIONAL MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF

6 GOALS OF PROGRAM THROUGH OCEANOGRAPHIC EF-

7 FORTS.—Section 8931(b)(2) of title 10, United States

8 Code, is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (A) by inserting “, creating,” after “identi-

11 fying”; and

1 (B) by inserting “science,” after “areas
2 of”; and

3 (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(B) soliciting, accepting, and executing
6 oceanographic research and observational
7 projects funded by private grants, contracts, or
8 cooperative agreements that contribute to such
9 goals.”.

10 (b) NATIONAL OCEAN RESEARCH LEADERSHIP
11 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP.—Section 8932 of title 10, United
12 States Code, is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (h)
14 as subsections (g) through (i), respectively;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking paragraph (10);

17 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (11)
18 through (14) as paragraphs (12) through (15),
19 respectively; and

20 (C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the
21 following new paragraphs:

22 “(10) The Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
23 ment of the Department of the Interior.

24 “(11) The Bureau of Safety and Environmental
25 Enforcement of the Department of the Interior.”;

1 (3) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 “broad participation within the oceano-
5 graphic community” and inserting “appro-
6 priate participation within the oceano-
7 graphic community , which may include
8 public, academic, commercial, and private
9 participation or support”; and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
11 “peer”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking subpara-
13 graph (D) and inserting the following:

14 “(D) Preexisting facilities, such as regional
15 data centers operated by the Integrated Ocean
16 Observing System, and expertise.”;

17 (4) in subsection (e)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading by striking
19 “REPORT” and inserting “BRIEFING”;

20 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
21 by striking “to Congress a report” and insert-
22 ing “to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
23 and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
24 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of
25 Representatives a briefing”;

1 (C) by striking “report” and inserting
2 “briefing” each place the term appears;

3 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(4) A description of the involvement of Fed-
6 eral agencies and non-federal contributors partici-
7 pating in the program.”; and

8 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “and the
9 estimated expenditures under such programs,
10 projects, and activities during such following
11 fiscal year” and inserting “and the estimated
12 expenditures under such programs, projects,
13 and activities of the program during such fol-
14 lowing fiscal year”;

15 (5) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year,
18 the Council shall publish on a publically available website
19 a report summarizing the briefing described in subsection
20 (e).”;

21 (6) in subsection (g), as redesignated by para-
22 graph (1)—

23 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
24 ing the following:

1 “(1) The Secretary of the Navy shall establish
2 an office to support the National Oceanographic
3 Partnership Program. The Council shall use com-
4 petitive procedures in selecting an operator for the
5 partnership program office. If practicable, an organi-
6 zation or entity may be selected as operator only if
7 the organization or entity has experience managing
8 interagency programs and programs with participa-
9 tion from other public and private entities.”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “,
11 where appropriate,” before “managing”; and

12 (7) by amending subsection (h), as redesignated
13 by paragraph (1), to read as follows:

14 “(h) CONTRACT AND GRANT AUTHORITY.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes
16 of the National Oceanographic Partnership Pro-
17 gram, the Council shall have, in addition to other
18 powers otherwise given it under this chapter, the fol-
19 lowing authorities:

20 “(A) To authorize one or more of the de-
21 partments or agencies represented on the Coun-
22 cil to enter into contracts and make grants or
23 cooperative agreements, and establish and man-
24 age new collaborative programs as considered
25 appropriate, to address emerging science prior-

1 ities using both donated and appropriated
2 funds.

3 “(B) To authorize the program office
4 under subsection (f), on behalf of the Council,
5 to accept funds, including fines and penalties,
6 from other Federal and State departments and
7 agencies.

8 “(C) To authorize the program office, on
9 behalf of the Council, to award grants and
10 enter into contracts for purposes of the Na-
11 tional Oceanographic Partnership Program.

12 “(D) To authorize the program office, on
13 behalf of the Council, to solicit, accept and exe-
14 cute oceanographic research projects for pur-
15 poses of the National Oceanographic Partner-
16 ship Program that are funded by private
17 grants, contracts, and donations.

18 “(E) To transfer funds to other Federal
19 and State departments and agencies in further-
20 ance of the purposes of the National Oceano-
21 graphic Partnership Program.

22 “(F) To authorize one or more of the de-
23 partments or agencies represented on the Coun-
24 cil to enter into contracts and make grants, for
25 the purpose of implementing the National

1 Oceanographic Partnership Program and car-
2 rying out the responsibilities of the Council.

3 “(G) To use, with the consent of the head
4 of the agency or entity concerned, on a non-re-
5 imburseable basis, the land, services, equipment,
6 personnel, facilities, advice, and information
7 provided by a Federal agency or entity, State,
8 local government, Tribal government, territory,
9 or possession, or any subdivisions thereof, or
10 the District of Columbia as may be helpful in
11 the performance of the duties of the Council.

12 “(2) FUNDS TRANSFERRED.—Funds identified
13 for direct support of National Oceanographic Part-
14 nership Program grants are authorized for transfer
15 between agencies and are exempt from section 1535
16 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as
17 the “Economy Act of 1932”).”.

18 (c) OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.—Section
19 8933(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended
20 by striking “State governments” and inserting “State and
21 Tribal governments”.