

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1716

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

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”.

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

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

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
7 section (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
15 public report, that shall be updated at least once
16 every 7 years.

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment con-
18 ducted under paragraph (1) shall—

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

25 “(B) assess the nature of those commu-
26 nities’ social and economic vulnerabilities;

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

6 “(D) identify key knowledge gaps where
7 research could be devoted to better understand
8 the possible impacts of ocean acidification on
9 these vulnerable communities, the risks and
10 threats facing these communities, and possible
11 adaptation strategies for these communities;
12 and

13 “(E) be conducted in collaboration with ex-
14 perts who are familiar with the unique eco-
15 nomic, social, ecological, geographic, and re-
16 source concerns of the Nation’s coastal commu-
17 nities, including representatives from the Na-
18 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
19 tion’s National Marine Fisheries Service and
20 the Office for Coastal Management.

21 “(c) SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNER-
22 ABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH
23 PLANNING.—In carrying out the program established
24 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with
25 State and local government entities that are conducting

1 or have completed vulnerability assessments, strategic re-
2 search planning, or other similar activities related to ocean
3 acidification and its impacts on coastal communities, for
4 the purpose of—

5 “(1) determining whether such activities can be
6 used as a model for other communities; and

7 “(2) identifying opportunities for the National
8 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support
9 such activities.”.

10 (b) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section
11 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research
12 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is
13 amended by adding at the end before the period the fol-
14 lowing: “, also including an ongoing mechanism that al-
15 lows affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, non-
16 Federal resource managers, coastal acidification networks,
17 and scientific experts not employed by the Federal Govern-
18 ment to provide input on research, data, and monitoring
19 that is necessary to support on-the-ground management,
20 decisionmaking, and adaptation related to ocean acidifica-
21 tion and its impacts”.

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

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

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

5 (3) 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 subsection (b) of section
11 12406.”.

12 (d) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL
13 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RE-
14 SEARCH PLANNING.—Not later than 180 days after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
16 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
17 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the
18 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to sup-
19 port State and local community vulnerability assessments
20 and strategic research planning, pursuant to section
21 12406(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And
22 Monitoring Act of 2009 (as added by subsection (a) of
23 this section).

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