

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4822

To establish a coastal zone research initiative at the Department of Energy,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a coastal zone research initiative at the
Department of Energy, 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 “Department of Energy
5 Coastal Research Initiative Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COASTAL ZONE RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

7 Section 306 of the Department of Energy Research
8 and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following:

10 “(e) COASTAL ZONE RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall carry
2 out a research program, in consultation with the Na-
3 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to
4 enhance the understanding of coastal ecosystems. In
5 carrying out this program, the Director shall
6 prioritize efforts to enhance the collection of obser-
7 vational data, and shall develop models to analyze
8 the ecological, biogeochemical, hydrological and
9 physical processes that interact in coastal zones.

10 “(2) NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR COASTAL DATA
11 COLLECTION.—The Director shall establish, in con-
12 sultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration and other relevant agencies, an inte-
14 grated system of geographically diverse field re-
15 search sites in order to improve the quantity and
16 quality of observational data, and that encompass
17 the major land water interfaces of the United
18 States, including—

19 “(A) the Great Lakes region;

20 “(B) the Pacific coast;

21 “(C) the Atlantic coast;

22 “(D) the Arctic; and

23 “(E) the Gulf coast.

24 “(3) EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying
25 out the programs and establishing the field research

1 sites under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary
2 shall leverage existing research and development in-
3 frastructure supported by the Department, including
4 the Department’s existing marine and coastal re-
5 search lab.

6 “(4) COORDINATION.—For the purposes of car-
7 rying out the programs and establishing the field re-
8 search sites under the Initiative, the Secretary may
9 enter into agreements with Federal Departments
10 and agencies with complementary capabilities.

11 “(5) REPORT.—Not less than 2 years after the
12 date of the enactment of the Department of Energy
13 Coastal Research Initiative Act, the Director shall
14 provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and
15 Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of
16 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
17 Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee
18 on Appropriations of the Senate a report examining
19 whether the system described in this section should
20 be established as a National User Facility.”.

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