

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3203

To provide research, development, and deployment of marine energy, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To provide research, development, and deployment of marine  
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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Marine Energy Research and Development Act of 2019”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purpose.
- Sec. 3. Amendment to short title.
- Sec. 4. Definition of marine energy.
- Sec. 5. Marine energy research and development.
- Sec. 6. National Marine Energy Centers.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to support marine energy  
3 programs that—

4 (1) promote the research and development of  
5 increased energy generation and capacity at reduced  
6 costs;

7 (2) promote research and development that im-  
8 proves environmental outcomes of marine energy  
9 technologies;

10 (3) provide grid stability and create new market  
11 opportunities; and

12 (4) promote job creation in the energy sector.

13 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO SHORT TITLE.**

14 Section 631 of the Energy Independence and Security  
15 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001) is amended by striking  
16 “and Hydrokinetic Renewable” from the short title.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF MARINE ENERGY.**

18 Section 632 of the Energy Independence and Security  
19 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211) is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 **“SEC. 632. DEFINITIONS.**

22 “For purposes of this subtitle, the term ‘marine en-  
23 ergy’ means energy from—

24 “(1) waves, tides, and currents in oceans, estu-  
25 aries, and tidal areas;



1 used for power generation from marine energy re-  
2 sources;

3 “(2) establish and expand critical testing infra-  
4 structure and facilities necessary to—

5 “(A) cost-effectively and efficiently test  
6 and prove marine energy devices; and

7 “(B) accelerate the technological readiness  
8 and commercialization of such devices;

9 “(3) support efforts to increase the efficiency of  
10 energy conversion, lower the cost, increase the use,  
11 improve the reliability, and demonstrate the applica-  
12 bility of marine energy technologies by participating  
13 in demonstration projects;

14 “(4) investigate variability issues and the effi-  
15 cient and reliable integration of marine energy with  
16 the utility grid;

17 “(5) identify and study critical short- and long-  
18 term needs to create a sustainable marine energy  
19 supply chain based in the United States;

20 “(6) increase the reliability and survivability of  
21 marine energy technologies;

22 “(7) verify the performance, reliability, main-  
23 tainability, and cost of new marine energy device de-  
24 signs and system components in an operating envi-  
25 ronment;

1           “(8) consider the protection of critical infra-  
2           structure, such as adequate separation between ma-  
3           rine energy devices and projects and submarine tele-  
4           communications cables, including consideration of  
5           established industry standards;

6           “(9)(A) coordinate the programs carried out  
7           under this section with, and avoid duplication of ac-  
8           tivities across, programs of the Department and  
9           other applicable Federal agencies, including National  
10          Laboratories; and

11          “(B) coordinate public-private collaboration in  
12          carrying out the programs under this section;

13          “(10) identify opportunities for joint research  
14          and development programs and the development of  
15          economies of scale between—

16                  “(A) marine energy technologies; and

17                  “(B) other renewable energy and fossil en-  
18                  ergy programs, offshore oil and gas production  
19                  activities, and activities of the Department of  
20                  Defense;

21          “(11) identify, in conjunction with the Sec-  
22          retary of Commerce, acting through the Under Sec-  
23          retary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,  
24          and other relevant Federal agencies as appropriate,  
25          the potential environmental impacts, including po-

1        potential impacts on fisheries and other marine re-  
2        sources, of marine energy technologies, measures to  
3        prevent adverse impacts, and technologies and other  
4        means available for monitoring and determining en-  
5        vironmental impacts;

6            “(12) identify, in conjunction with the Sec-  
7        retary of the Department in which the United States  
8        Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Com-  
9        mandant of the United States Coast Guard, the po-  
10       tential navigational impacts of marine energy tech-  
11       nologies and measures to prevent adverse impacts on  
12       navigation; and

13           “(13) support in-water technology development  
14       with international partners using existing coopera-  
15       tive procedures (including memoranda of under-  
16       standing) to—

17            “(A) allow cooperative funding and other  
18       support of value to be exchanged and leveraged;  
19       and

20            “(B) encourage international research cen-  
21       ters and international companies to participate  
22       in the development of marine energy technology  
23       in the United States and to encourage United  
24       States research centers and companies to par-  
25       ticipate in marine energy projects abroad.

1       “(b) COST SHARING AND MERIT REVIEW.—The Sec-  
2 retary shall carry out the program under this section in  
3 compliance with sections 988 and 989 of the Energy Pol-  
4 icy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 16352, 16353).”.

5 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL MARINE ENERGY CENTERS.**

6       Section 634 of the Energy Independence and Security  
7 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17213) is amended by striking  
8 subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

9       “(a) CENTERS.—The Secretary shall award grants to  
10 institutions of higher education for continuation and ex-  
11 pansion of the research, development, and testing activi-  
12 ties at the National Marine Energy Centers established  
13 as of January 1, 2019, and the establishment of new Na-  
14 tional Marine Energy Centers. In selecting locations for  
15 new Centers, the Secretary shall consider one of the fol-  
16 lowing criteria:

17               “(1) Hosts an existing marine energy research  
18 and development program in coordination with an  
19 engineering program at an institution of higher edu-  
20 cation.

21               “(2) Has proven expertise to support environ-  
22 mental and policy-related issues associated with the  
23 harnessing of energy in the marine environment.

24               “(3) Has access to and utilizes marine re-  
25 sources.

1       “(b) PURPOSES.—The Centers shall coordinate  
2 among themselves, the Department and the National Lab-  
3 oratories to—

4               “(1) advance research, development, and dem-  
5 onstration of marine energy technologies;

6               “(2) support in-water testing and demonstra-  
7 tion of marine energy technologies, including facili-  
8 ties capable of testing—

9                       “(A) marine energy systems of various  
10 technology readiness levels and scales;

11                      “(B) a variety of technologies in multiple  
12 test berths at a single location; and

13                      “(C) arrays of technology devices; and

14               “(3) serve as information clearinghouses for the  
15 marine energy industry by collecting and dissemi-  
16 nating information on best practices in all areas re-  
17 lating to developing and managing marine energy re-  
18 sources and energy systems.

19       “(c) COST SHARING.—The Secretary shall carry out  
20 the program under this section in compliance with section  
21 988(b)(4) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.  
22 16352).”.

23 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24       Section 636 of the Energy Independence and Security  
25 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17215) is amended by inserting

1 “and \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 and  
2 2021” after “2008 through 2012”.

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