

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3814

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of coastal erosion on tourism and other businesses in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of coastal erosion on tourism and other businesses in Puerto Rico, 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 “Puerto Rico Business
5 & Economic Assessment of Coastal Hazards and Erosion
6 Study Act” or the “Puerto Rico BEACHES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON COASTAL EROSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
3 United States shall conduct a study, and submit to Con-
4 gress a report thereon, on the effects of erosion, including
5 the loss of beaches, dunes, and wetlands, on tourism, fish-
6 eries, and businesses, throughout coastal areas in Puerto
7 Rico.

8 (b) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In con-
9 ducting the study required under subsection (a), the
10 Comptroller General shall coordinate and consult with rel-
11 evant local agencies, including the Puerto Rico Depart-
12 ment of Natural and Environmental Resources, the Puer-
13 to Rico Department of Economic Development, and the
14 Puerto Rico Tourism Company.

15 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General shall
16 include in the report submitted under subsection (a) any
17 recommendations—

18 (1) on how to ameliorate any environmental
19 factors that may be affecting businesses in the areas
20 described in subsection (a); and

21 (2) to address any challenges experienced by in-
22 dustries as a result of erosion in coastal areas.

23 (d) COASTAL AREA DEFINED.—In this section, the
24 term “coastal area” means a marine or freshwater area
25 within or adjacent to a coastal State, including—

26 (1) a coastal wetland or watershed;

- 1 (2) coastal water;
- 2 (3) a coastal bay;
- 3 (4) a coastline; and
- 4 (5) an estuary and associated upland.

○