

Calendar No. 310

119TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
119-100 }

A BILL TO AMEND THE DIGITAL COAST
ACT

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ON

S. 2245



JANUARY 30, 2026.—Ordered to be printed

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 2245]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to which was referred the bill (S. 2245) to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 2245 is to reauthorize the Digital Coast program through fiscal year 2030, improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data provided by the program, and limit trainings to technical instruction in the use of data and tools provided by the program.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

Nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population lives in coastal counties, which together contribute trillions of dollars in goods and services to the U.S. economy annually.¹ To remain economically resilient and safe, these communities can benefit from access to high-quality geospatial data and decision-support tools. However, many coastal

¹A“Socioeconomic Data Summary,” NOAA Digital Coast, 2024, <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/socioeconomic-data-summary.pdf>.

communities—particularly smaller counties—lack the staff and funding to acquire and manage these resources.²

The Digital Coast program, managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management, provides coastal communities with integrated access to data, analytical tools, and technical training.³ Established to help local governments, planners, and businesses navigate the risk of coastal storms and related challenges, Digital Coast serves as a national “one-stop shop” for coastal management resources.⁴

The program has delivered measurable benefits, with NOAA estimating a 400-percent return on investment and survey results showing that three-quarters of users have projects that would not have been possible without Digital Coast.⁵ One 2021 study found that annual societal benefits from Digital Coast trainings alone range from \$1.8 million to \$9.7 million, while a single use of its Sea Level Rise Viewer produced between \$1.1 million and \$2.2 million in value.⁶

Digital Coast houses 3,200 datasets covering topography, bathymetry, land cover, socioeconomic, and hazard risk.⁷ It also provides widely used decision-support tools such as the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper and Coastal County Snapshots, which show local vulnerabilities and assets.⁸ These resources support safer zoning, floodplain management, and long-term infrastructure investment. Recent updates have made the site easier to use; a 2023 redesign boosted mobile engagement by 82 percent and added streamlined search functions, new topics such as nature-based solutions, and improved “Stories from the Field” to highlight real-world applications.⁹

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

S. 2245 would do the following:

- Reauthorize the Digital Coast program through fiscal year 2030.
- Direct the Secretary of Commerce to support efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management for critical infrastructure, including data related to underground infrastructure and subsurface utilities.
- Ensure the data remains fully and freely available and readily accessible.
- Limit Digital Coast trainings to technical instruction in the use of data and tools provided by the program.

²Amanda Stolz et al., *User Engagement to Improve Coastal Data Access and Delivery*, USGS, 2023, <https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/sir20235081/full>.

³“About Digital Coast,” NOAA Office for Coastal Management, <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/about/>.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Kathryne Cleary et al., “The Societal Value of NOAA’s Digital Coast,” *Resources for the Future*, February 9, 2021, <https://www.rff.org/publications/reports/the-societal-value-of-noaas-digital-coast/>.

⁷NOAA Office for Coastal Management, *Digital Coast Accomplishments Report: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023*, p. 4, <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/accomplishments.pdf>.

⁸“Digital Coast Tools,” NOAA Office for Coastal Management, <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/>.

⁹NOAA Office for Coastal Management, *Digital Coast Accomplishments Report: Fiscal Years 2021 to 2023*, pp. 7 and 19, <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/accomplishments.pdf>.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 2245 was introduced on July 10, 2025, by Senator Baldwin (for herself and Senator Murkowski) and was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. Senator Sullivan is an additional cosponsor. On October 21, 2025, the Committee met in open Executive Session and, by voice vote, ordered S. 2245 reported favorably with an amendment (in the nature of a substitute).

H.R. 4256, the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025, was introduced on June 30, 2025, by Representative Min (for himself and Representatives Wittman, Mullin, and Carter) and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives. Ten additional Representatives are cosponsors. On September 17, 2025, that Committee met in open Executive Session and, by unanimous consent, ordered H.R. 4256 reported favorably.

ESTIMATED COSTS

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

S. 2245, a bill to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on October 21, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2026	2026-2030	2026-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	2	17	20
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
Mandate Effects			
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 2245 would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million each year from 2026 through 2030 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to operate the Digital Coast program. Under that program, NOAA makes geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices regarding the management of coastal areas available on a public website. Under current law, that authority expired at the end of fiscal year 2025.

The bill also would extend the authority for NOAA to collect and spend fees for training, workshops, and conferences related to the program. The authority to collect those fees and the subsequent spending would be subject to appropriation. CBO estimates that the net effect on the federal budget of those collections and spend-

ing would be negligible, because the collections probably would be spent soon after they are received.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted early in calendar year 2026 and that the authorized amounts will be provided each year. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2245 would cost \$17 million over the 2026–2030 period and \$3 million after 2030.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER S. 2245

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026–2030
Authorization	4	4	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	4	4	17

On October 23, 2025, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4256, the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 17, 2025. The two bills are similar, and CBO’s estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Emilia Oliva. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Because S. 2245 does not create any new programs, the legislation will have no additional regulatory impact, and will result in no additional reporting requirements. The legislation will have no further effect on the number or types of individuals and businesses regulated, the economic impact of such regulation, the personal privacy of affected individuals, or the paperwork required from such individuals and businesses.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

In compliance with paragraph 4(b) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides that no provisions contained in the bill, as reported, meet the definition of congressionally directed spending items under the rule.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of Digital Coast program

This section would reauthorize the Digital Coast program through fiscal year 2030 at current funding levels.

This section would direct the Secretary to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key coastal management data—including data related to underground infrastructure and subsurface utili-

ties—and to ensure that all resulting data and products developed under the program are fully and freely accessible.

Lastly, this section would limit trainings to technical instruction in the use of data and tools provided by the program.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new material is printed in *italic*, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

DIGITAL COAST ACT

* * * * *

[16 U.S.C. 1467]

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIGITAL COAST.

(a) * * *

(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall ensure that the program provides data integration, tool development, training, documentation, dissemination, and archive by—

(1) making data and resulting integrated products developed under this section readily accessible *and fully and freely available* via the Digital Coast internet website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the GeoPlatform.gov and data.gov internet websites, and such other information distribution technologies as the Secretary considers appropriate;

(2) developing decision-support tools that use and display resulting integrated data and provide training on use of such tools;

(3) documenting such data to Federal Geographic Data Committee standards; and

(4) archiving all raw data acquired under this Act at the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data center or such other Federal data center as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) * * *

(d) FILLING NEEDS AND GAPS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) maximize the use of remote sensing and other geospatial data collection activities conducted for other purposes and under other authorities;

(2) focus on filling data needs and gaps for coastal management issues, including with respect to areas that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, were underserved by coastal data and the areas of the Arctic that are under the jurisdiction of the United States;

(3) pursuant to the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), support continue improvement in existing efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management and other purposes, including—

- (A) coastal elevation data;
- (B) land use and land cover data;
- (C) socioeconomic and human use data;
- (D) critical infrastructure data, *including data related to underground infrastructure and subsurface utilities*;
- (E) structures data;
- (F) living resources and habitat data;
- (G) cadastral data; and
- (H) aerial imagery; **and**

(4) integrate the priority supporting data set forth under paragraph (3) with other available data for the benefit of the broadest measure of coastal resource management constituents and applications~~...~~; *and*

(5) *limit trainings to technical instruction in the use of data and tools provided under this section.*

(e) * * *

(f) * * *

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year 2021 through **[2025]** 2030 to carry out the program.

* * * * *

