

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2256

To provide an authorized strength for commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 1998

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. STEVENS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide an authorized strength for commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps, 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 “National Oceanic and
5 Atmospheric Administration Corps Continuation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Tracing its roots back to 1807 when Presi-
9 dent Thomas Jefferson signed a bill for the “Survey

1 of the Coast”, the National Oceanic and Atmos-
2 pheric Administration Corps has served the armed
3 services and the Nation consistently and ably for al-
4 most two centuries.

5 (2) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
6 ministration Corps is a dedicated and specialized
7 uniformed officer corps that operates vessels and
8 planes, provides important scientific and technical
9 services, and carries out programmatic responsibil-
10 ities throughout the National Oceanic and Atmos-
11 pheric Administration.

12 (3) The smallest of the seven uniformed serv-
13 ices, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
14 istration Corps grew in size from 275 officers in
15 1970, the year the National Oceanic and Atmos-
16 pheric Administration was created, to 411 officers in
17 1994.

18 (4) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
19 ministration Corps has met or exceeded the 1996
20 National Performance Review recommendation
21 which called for a reduction of 130 officers from the
22 1994 level.

23 (5) Federally-sponsored studies conclude that
24 no immediate or long-term cost savings would be
25 achieved by replacing the National Oceanic and At-

1 mospheric Administration Corps with a comparable
2 civilian entity.

3 (6) As a result of the hiring freeze imposed on
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
5 tion Corps, positions necessary to maintain the
6 statutorily mandated operation of the vessel and air-
7 craft fleets of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration have not been filled, valuable re-
9 search work has been delayed, and the hydrography
10 expertise of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
11 Administration, that is critical to the international
12 trade of the United States, has been compromised.

13 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF COMMISSIONED OFFI-**
14 **CERS.**

15 Section 2 of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commis-
16 sioned Officers' Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 853a) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (e)
19 as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

20 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as redes-
21 ignated, the following:

22 “(a) There are authorized to be not less than 264
23 and not more than 299 commissioned officers on the active
24 list of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
25 tion.”.

1 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NA-**
2 **TIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN-**
3 **ISTRATION CORPS.**

4 Section 24(a) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Com-
5 missioned Officers' Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 853u(a)) is
6 amended by inserting "One such position shall be the di-
7 rector of the commissioned officers who shall be appointed
8 from the officers on the active duty promotion list serving
9 in or above the grade of captain, and who shall be respon-
10 sible for administration of the commissioned officers, and
11 for oversight of the operation of the vessel and aircraft
12 fleets, of the Administration." before "An officer".

13 **SEC. 5. RELIEF FROM HIRING FREEZE.**

14 The Secretary of Commerce immediately shall relieve
15 the moratorium on new appointments of commissioned of-
16 ficers to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
17 tration Corps.

○