

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1667

To provide for the development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand past, assess present, and predict future human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To provide for the development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand past, assess present, and predict future human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change, 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 “Abrupt Climate  
5 Change Research Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.**

2 In this Act, the term “abrupt climate change” means  
3 a change in the climate that occurs so rapidly or unexpect-  
4 edly that human or natural systems have difficulty adapt-  
5 ing to the climate as changed.

6 **SEC. 3. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary  
8 of Commerce shall establish within the Office of Oceanic  
9 and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and  
10 Atmospheric Administration, and carry out, a program of  
11 extramural awards, made on a peer-reviewed and competi-  
12 tive basis, to conduct scientific research on abrupt climate  
13 change.

14 (b) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the  
15 program established under subsection (a) shall be as fol-  
16 lows:

17 (1) To develop a global array of terrestrial and  
18 oceanographic indicators of paleoclimate in order to  
19 sufficiently identify and describe past instances of  
20 abrupt climate change.

21 (2) To improve understanding of thresholds and  
22 nonlinearities in geophysical systems related to the  
23 mechanisms of abrupt climate change.

24 (3) To incorporate such mechanisms into ad-  
25 vanced geophysical models of climate change.

1           (4) To test the simulation of climate change by  
2       such models against an improved global array of  
3       records of past abrupt climate changes.

4   **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5       (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6   authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-  
7   merce for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2016,  
8   \$10,000,000 to carry out the research program estab-  
9   lished under section 3(a).

10      (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-  
11   priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in  
12   subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until ex-  
13   pended.

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