

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4461

To authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
establish a Climate Change Education Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2014

Mr. HONDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program.

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 “Climate Change Edu-
5 cation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the evidence for human-induced climate
2 change is overwhelming and undeniable;

3 (2) the United States is the second highest
4 emitter of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse
5 gases in the world;

6 (3) atmospheric carbon can be significantly re-
7 duced through conservation, by shifting to renewable
8 energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal, and geo-
9 thermal, and by increasing the efficiency of build-
10 ings, including domiciles, and transportation;

11 (4) providing clear information about climate
12 change, in a variety of forms, can remove the fear
13 and the sense of helplessness, and encourage individ-
14 uals and communities to take action;

15 (5) implementation of measures that promote
16 energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable en-
17 ergy will greatly reduce human impact on the envi-
18 ronment; and

19 (6) informing people of new technologies and
20 programs as they become available will ensure max-
21 imum understanding and maximum impact of those
22 measures.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

24 In this Act, the term “climate change education”
25 means informal and formal interdisciplinary learning at

1 all age levels about climate change and its effects on envi-
2 ronmental, energy, social, and economic systems.

3 **SEC. 4. CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

4 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
5 tion shall establish a Climate Change Education Program
6 to—

7 (1) broaden the understanding of human in-
8 duced climate change, possible long-term and short-
9 term consequences, and potential solutions;

10 (2) apply the latest scientific and technological
11 discoveries to provide formal and informal learning
12 opportunities to people of all ages, including those of
13 diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds;

14 (3) emphasize actionable information to help
15 people understand and to promote implementation of
16 new technologies, programs, and incentives related
17 to energy conservation, renewable energy, and green-
18 house gas reduction; and

19 (4) inform the public of impacts to human
20 health and safety as a result of climate change.

21 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**

22 The Climate Change Education Program shall in-
23 clude—

24 (1) a national information campaign to dissemi-
25 nate information on and promote implementation of

1 the new technologies, programs, and incentives de-
2 scribed in section 4(3); and

3 (2) the grant program described in section 6.

4 **SEC. 6. GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
6 tion shall establish a program to make grants—

7 (1) to support national public education, out-
8 reach, and communication programs to engage sub-
9 stantial numbers of the public in understanding cli-
10 mate change while developing educated and empow-
11 ered consumers, investors, and citizens;

12 (2) to encourage and support statewide plans
13 and programs for climate change education, includ-
14 ing relevant teacher training and professional devel-
15 opment, STEM (science, technology, engineering,
16 and mathematics) education, and multidisciplinary
17 studies to ensure that students graduate from high
18 school climate literate, with a particular focus on
19 programs that advance widespread State and local
20 educational agency adoption of climate change edu-
21 cation, including funding for State education agen-
22 cies to—

23 (A) integrate key principles of climate
24 change education into existing K–12 State aca-
25 demic content standards, student academic

1 achievement standards, or State curriculum
2 frameworks;

3 (B) create model State climate change cur-
4 rricula; or

5 (C) create State green school building
6 standards or policies;

7 (3) to improve the quality of and access to
8 higher education in green collar industries and green
9 economy-related fields such as green business, tech-
10 nology, engineering, policy studies, and sustainability
11 science, with a particular focus on programs that ad-
12 dress restructuring institutional incentives and re-
13 ducing institutional barriers to widespread faculty
14 adoption of interdisciplinary teaching of climate
15 change education;

16 (4) for institutions of higher education to en-
17 gage teams of faculty and students to develop ap-
18 plied climate research and deliver to local commu-
19 nities direct services on climate mitigation and adap-
20 tation issues impacting such communities, with a
21 priority on distressed communities; and

22 (5) for projects that build capacity for climate
23 adaptation at the State and national level includ-
24 ing—

25 (A) career education;

1 (B) expanding green collar workforce
2 training;

3 (C) secondary school preparation or work-
4 based experiences in green collar fields; and

5 (D) continuing education needed for prac-
6 ticing professionals for green economy-related
7 fields.

8 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

9 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the National Oceanic
11 and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit to Con-
12 gress a report that evaluates the scientific merits, edu-
13 cational effectiveness, and broader impacts of activities
14 under this Act.

15 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
17 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
18 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019
19 for carrying out this Act.

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