

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7713

To reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2020

Mr. PANETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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 reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, 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 Oceano-
5 graphic Partnership Program Revitalization Act” or the
6 “NOPP Revitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL OCEANO-**
2 **GRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

3 Chapter 893 of title 10, United States Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 8931. NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Navy
8 shall establish a program to be known as the ‘National
9 Oceanographic Partnership Program’.

10 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are
11 as follows:

12 “(1) To promote the national goals of assuring
13 national security, advancing economic development,
14 protecting quality of life, ensuring environmental
15 stewardship, and strengthening science education
16 and communication through improved knowledge of
17 the ocean.

18 “(2) To coordinate and strengthen oceano-
19 graphic efforts in support of those goals by—

20 “(A) creating and carrying out partner-
21 ships among Federal agencies, academia, indus-
22 try, and other members of the oceanographic
23 community in the areas of science, data, re-
24 sources, education, and communication; and

25 “(B) accepting, planning, and executing
26 oceanographic research projects funded by

1 grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or
2 other vehicles as appropriate, that contribute to
3 assuring national security, advancing economic
4 development, protecting quality of life, ensuring
5 environmental stewardship, and strengthening
6 science education and communication through
7 improved knowledge of the ocean.

8 **“SEC. 8932. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

9 “(a) COMMITTEE.—There is established an Ocean
10 Policy Committee (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Com-
11 mittee’). The Committee shall retain the membership, co-
12 chairs, and subcommittees outlined in Executive Order
13 13840.

14 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall con-
15 tinue the activities of that Committee as it was in exist-
16 ence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.
17 In discharging its responsibilities and to assist in the exe-
18 cution of the activities delineated in this subparagraph,
19 the Committee may delegate to a subcommittee, as appro-
20 priate. The Committee shall:

21 “(1) Prescribe policies and procedures to imple-
22 ment the National Oceanographic Partnership Pro-
23 gram.

24 “(2) Engage and collaborate, pursuant to exist-
25 ing laws and regulations, with stakeholders, includ-

1 ing regional ocean partnerships, to address ocean-re-
2 lated matters that may require interagency or inter-
3 governmental solutions.

4 “(3) Facilitate coordination and integration of
5 Federal activities in ocean and coastal waters to in-
6 form ocean policy and identify priority ocean re-
7 search, technology, and data needs.

8 “(4) Review, select, and identify partnership
9 projects for implementation under the program,
10 based on the following criteria:

11 “(A) Whether the project addresses impor-
12 tant research objectives or operational goals.

13 “(B) Whether the project has, or is de-
14 signed to have, appropriate participation within
15 the oceanographic community of public, aca-
16 demic, commercial, private participation or sup-
17 port.

18 “(C) Whether the partners have a long-
19 term commitment to the objectives of the
20 project.

21 “(D) Whether the resources supporting the
22 project are shared among the partners.

23 “(E) Whether the project has been sub-
24 jected to adequate review according to each of
25 the supporting agencies.

1 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT AND BRIEF.—Not later than
2 March 1 of each year, the Committee shall post a report
3 on a publicly available website and brief the Committee
4 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;
5 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; the Com-
6 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
7 tives; the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
8 of the House of Representatives; and the Committee on
9 Armed Services of the House of Representatives on the
10 National Oceanographic Partnership Program. The report
11 and brief shall discuss the following:

12 “(1) A description of activities of the program
13 carried out during the prior fiscal year.

14 “(2) A general outline of the activities planned
15 for the program during the current fiscal year.

16 “(3) A summary of projects, partnerships, and
17 collaborations, including the Federal and non-Fed-
18 eral sources of funding, continued from the prior fis-
19 cal year and projects expected to begin during the
20 current and subsequent fiscal years, as required in
21 the program office report outlined in section
22 8932(f)(2)(C).

23 “(4) The amounts requested in the budget sub-
24 mitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of
25 title 31 for the subsequent fiscal year, for the pro-

1 grams, projects, activities and the estimated expend-
2 itures under such programs, projects, and activities,
3 to execute the National Oceanographic Partnership
4 Program.

5 “(5) A summary of national ocean research pri-
6 orities informed by the Ocean Research Advisory
7 Panel required in section 8933(b)(4).

8 “(6) A list of the members of the Ocean Re-
9 search Advisory Panel described in section 8933(a)
10 and any working groups described in section
11 8932(f)(2)(A) in existence during the fiscal years
12 covered.

13 The report and all briefing materials shall be posted to
14 a publicly available website not later than 30 days after
15 the briefing.

16 “(d) NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP
17 FUND.—There is established in the Treasury a separate
18 account to be known as the National Oceanographic Part-
19 nership Program Fund to be jointly managed by the Sec-
20 retary of the Navy, the Administrator of the National Oce-
21 anic and Atmospheric Administration, and any other Fed-
22 eral agency that contributes amounts to the Fund.

23 “(1) APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZED
24 USES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to
25 the NOPP without further appropriation to remain

1 available for up to 5 years from the date contributed
2 or until expended for the purpose of carrying out
3 this section.

4 “(2) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

5 There is authorized to be credited to the Fund the
6 following:

7 “(A) Such amounts as determined appro-
8 priate to be transferred to the Fund by the
9 head of a Federal agency or entity participating
10 in the National Oceanographic Partnership Pro-
11 gram.

12 “(B) Funds provided by a State, local gov-
13 ernment, tribal government, territory, or pos-
14 session, or any subdivisions thereof.

15 “(C) Funds contributed by a non-profit or-
16 ganization, individual, or Congressionally estab-
17 lished foundation; by private grants, contracts,
18 and donations.

19 “(3) CONTRACT AND GRANT AUTHORITY.—For
20 the purpose of carrying out this section, as directed
21 by the Committee, departments or agencies rep-
22 resented on the Committee may enter into contracts,
23 make grants, including transactions authorized by
24 paragraph (4), and may transfer funds available to
25 the National Oceanographic Partnership Program

1 under paragraph (2) to participating departments
2 and agencies for such purposes.

3 “(4) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES,
4 STATES, TERRITORIES, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVI-
5 SIONS.—The Committee or any participating Fed-
6 eral agency or entity may enter into an agreement
7 to use, with or without reimbursement, the land,
8 services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any
9 department, agency, or instrumentality of the United
10 States, or of any State, local government, Indian
11 tribal government, Territory, District of Columbia,
12 or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof,
13 or of any foreign government or international orga-
14 nization or individual, for the purpose of carrying
15 out this section.

16 “(e) ESTABLISHMENT AND FORMS OF PARTNERSHIP
17 PROJECTS.—A partnership project under the National
18 Oceanographic Partnership Program—

19 “(1) may be established by any instrument that
20 the Committee considers appropriate; and

21 “(2) may include demonstration projects.

22 “(f) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OFFICE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy
24 and Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
25 mospheric Administration shall jointly establish a

1 partnership program office for the National Oceano-
2 graphic Partnership Program. Competitive proce-
3 dures will be used to select an external operator for
4 the partnership program office.

5 “(2) DUTIES.—The Committee will monitor the
6 performance of the duties of the partnership pro-
7 gram office, which shall consist of the following:

8 “(A) To support working groups estab-
9 lished by the Committee or subcommittee and
10 report working group activities to the Com-
11 mittee, including working group proposals for
12 partnership projects.

13 “(B) To support the process for proposing
14 partnership projects to the Committee, includ-
15 ing, where appropriate, managing review of
16 such projects.

17 “(C) To submit to the Committee and
18 make publicly available an annual report on the
19 status of all partnership projects, including the
20 Federal and non-Federal sources of funding for
21 each project, and activities of the office.

22 “(D) To perform any additional duties for
23 the administration of the National Oceano-
24 graphic Partnership Program that the Com-
25 mittee considers appropriate.

1 **“SEC. 8933. OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Committee shall estab-
3 lish an Ocean Research Advisory Panel consisting of not
4 less than 10 and not more than 18 members appointed
5 by the Co-chairs, including the following:

6 “(1) Three members who will represent the Na-
7 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Med-
8 icine.

9 “(2) Members selected from among individuals
10 who will represent the views of ocean industries,
11 State, tribal, territorial or local governments, aca-
12 demia, and such other views as the Co-chairs con-
13 sider appropriate.

14 “(3) Members selected from among individuals
15 eminent in the fields of marine science, marine tech-
16 nology, and marine policy, or related fields.

17 The Committee shall ensure that an appropriate balance
18 of academic, scientific, industry, and geographical inter-
19 ests and gender and racial diversity are represented by
20 the members of the Advisory Panel.

21 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall as-
22 sign the following responsibilities to the Advisory Panel:

23 “(1) To advise the Committee on policies and
24 procedures to implement the National Oceano-
25 graphic Partnership Program.

1 “(2) To advise the Committee on matters relat-
2 ing to national oceanographic science, engineering,
3 facilities, or resource requirements.

4 “(3) To advise the Committee on improving di-
5 versity, equity, and inclusion in the ocean sciences
6 and related fields

7 “(4) To advise the Committee on national ocean
8 research priorities.

9 “(5) Any additional responsibilities that the
10 Committee considers appropriate.

11 “(6) To meet no fewer than two times a year.

12 “(c) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—
13 The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
14 pheric Administration shall provide such administrative
15 and technical support as the Ocean Research Advisory
16 Panel may require.

17 “(d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section
18 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
19 App.) shall not apply to the Ocean Research Advisory
20 Panel appointed under section 8933.”.

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