

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8968

To authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to recommend certain projects in remote, coastal, and small watersheds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to recommend certain projects in remote, coastal, and small watersheds, 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 “Remote, Coastal, and
5 Small Watersheds Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. REMOTE, COASTAL, OR SMALL WATERSHEDS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In conducting a study of hurri-
8 cane and storm damage reduction, the Secretary of the

1 Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may rec-
2 ommend a project without the need to demonstrate that
3 the project is justified solely by national economic develop-
4 ment benefits if the Secretary determines that—

5 (1) the community to be served by the project
6 has limited options for relocation or retreating from
7 the flood plain or coastal flood zone;

8 (2) the project would be located in the State of
9 Hawaii or Alaska, the Commonwealth of Puerto
10 Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern
11 Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands,
12 or American Samoa;

13 (3) the area cost factor is greater than 2.2, as
14 determined by the Secretary; or

15 (4) the long-term viability of the community in
16 which the project is located, or of a community that
17 is located in the region to be served by the project
18 and that will rely on the project, would be threat-
19 ened without the hurricane and storm damage re-
20 duction project.

21 (b) JUSTIFICATION.—In considering whether to rec-
22 ommend a project under subsection (a), the Secretary
23 shall consider the benefits of the project to—

24 (1) public health and safety of the local commu-
25 nity and communities that are located in the region

1 to be served by the project and that will rely on the
2 project, including access to facilities designed to pro-
3 tect public health and safety;

4 (2) hurricane and storm damage effects on local
5 and regional economic opportunities;

6 (3) welfare of the regional population to be
7 served by the project; or

8 (4) social and cultural value to the local com-
9 munity and communities that are located in the re-
10 gion to be served by the project and that will rely
11 on the project.

12 (c) PRIORITIZATION.—Projects recommended by the
13 Secretary under subsection (a) shall be given equivalent
14 budget consideration and priority as projects rec-
15 ommended solely by national economic development bene-
16 fits.

17 (d) DISPOSITION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out
19 any project identified in the study carried out pursu-
20 ant to subsection (a) in accordance with the criteria
21 for projects carried out under the authority of the
22 Secretary under section 205 of the River and Har-
23 bor Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

24 (2) NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.—In evaluating
25 and implementing a project under this section, the

1 Secretary shall allow a non-Federal interest to par-
2 ticipate in the financing of a project in accordance
3 with the criteria established for flood control
4 projects under section 903(c) of the Water Re-
5 sources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–
6 662; 100 Stat. 4184).

7 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—For a project that cannot be
8 carried out under the authority specified in subsection (d),
9 on a determination by the Secretary of the feasibility of
10 the project under subsection (a), the Secretary may in-
11 clude a recommendation concerning the project in the an-
12 nual report submitted to Congress under section 7001 of
13 the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of
14 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d).

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