

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3748

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the promotion of certain policies regarding the effects of sea level rise on the statehood and maritime zones of countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2025

Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CASE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the promotion of certain policies regarding the effects of sea level rise on the statehood and maritime zones of countries, 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 “Maintaining Area
5 Rights and Integrity Through International Maritime En-
6 forcement Act” or the “MARITIME Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Increasing sea levels pose an existential
2 threat to low-lying island States in the Pacific
3 Ocean.

4 (2) Maritime zones are critical for the econo-
5 mies of the Pacific Islands, which depend on exclu-
6 sive rights to resources.

7 (3) New trends are developing in the practices
8 and views of States on the need for stable maritime
9 zones in the face of sea level rise, as reflected in the
10 approach taken by the members of the Pacific Is-
11 lands Forum and the Alliance of Small Island
12 States.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

14 It is the policy of the United States that—

15 (1) sea level rise driven by climate change
16 should not cause any country to lose its statehood or
17 its membership in the United Nations, its specialized
18 agencies, or other international organizations;

19 (2) the United States is committed to working
20 with other countries on issues relating to sea level
21 rise and statehood to advance these objectives;

22 (3) sea level rise driven by climate change
23 should not diminish the maritime zones on which is-
24 land States and other coastal States rely, including
25 for food and livelihoods;

1 (4) the United States is committed to pre-
2 serving the legitimacy of maritime zones, and associ-
3 ated rights and entitlements, that have been estab-
4 lished consistent with international law as reflected
5 in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the
6 Sea and that are not subsequently updated despite
7 sea level rise caused by climate change;

8 (5) countries should support the initiative of the
9 Pacific Islands Forum and the Alliance of Small Is-
10 land States to take steps now to determine, memori-
11 alize, and publish their coastal baselines in accord-
12 ance with the international law of the sea as set out
13 in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the
14 Sea; and

15 (6) the United States will encourage countries
16 to adopt similar policies on the issue of statehood
17 and the preservation of maritime zones.

18 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
21 in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
22 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
23 committees a report on the efforts of the United States
24 to promote the adoption, by foreign countries and inter-
25 national organizations, of policies that are complementary

1 to United States policies regarding the effects of sea level
2 rise on the statehood and maritime zones of countries.

3 (b) REPORT CONTENTS.—The report required by
4 subsection (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) A comprehensive review of the initiatives of
6 the Department of State and other relevant depart-
7 ments and agencies to promote the adoption of poli-
8 cies described in subsection (a) by foreign countries
9 and international organizations.

10 (2) An assessment of how the Department of
11 State and other relevant departments and agencies
12 are establishing or expanding bilateral and multilat-
13 eral efforts to encourage the adoption of policies de-
14 scribed in subsection (a) in international fora.

15 (3) An assessment of any legal, policy,
16 logistical, financial, or administrative barrier to pro-
17 moting the adoption of policies described in sub-
18 section (a).

19 (4) A list of countries and international organi-
20 zations that have adopted policies described in sub-
21 section (a).

22 (c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under
23 subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but
24 may include a classified annex.

1 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

2 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives; and

6 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
7 Senate.

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