

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7896

To establish within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a research program comprising global ocean monitoring and observing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Mr. AMO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To establish within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a research program comprising global ocean monitoring and observing, 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 “NOAA Global Ocean  
5 Monitoring and Observing Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NOAA GLOBAL OCEAN MONITORING AND OBSERV-**  
7 **ING RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, act-  
9 ing through the Administrator of the National Oceanic

1 and Atmospheric Administration (referred to in this sec-  
2 tion as the “Administrator”), shall establish within the  
3 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a re-  
4 search program comprising global ocean monitoring and  
5 observing (in this section referred to as the “program”).

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The program shall provide high qual-  
7 ity global ocean environmental data and information to  
8 improve scientific understanding and knowledge to ad-  
9 vance capabilities and services for climate, weather, and  
10 ocean needs that support the National Oceanic and At-  
11 mospheric Administration’s mission to monitor and ob-  
12 serve the global environment in order to protect lives and  
13 property from extreme weather and other natural phe-  
14 nomena by carrying out the following:

15 (1) Developing and improving sustained global  
16 in-situ ocean monitoring and observing systems ca-  
17 pable of systematically collecting ocean environ-  
18 mental data to support ocean research, weather re-  
19 search, and climate research, including by leading  
20 the development of the global One-Argo system.

21 (2) Supporting basic and applied research, in-  
22 cluding the utilization of public and private partner-  
23 ships to test and evaluate innovative and improved  
24 ocean observation technologies to address emerging  
25 research needs and support the scientific under-

1 standing of ocean health and ocean economy, and  
2 the weather and environment.

3 (3) Improving the findability, accessibility,  
4 interoperability, quality, usability, and reusability of  
5 environmental and observational data and research  
6 products to carry out the following:

7 (A) Collecting critical baseline ocean meas-  
8 urements.

9 (B) Strengthening public understanding of  
10 marine and ocean research.

11 (C) Meeting the national needs for the re-  
12 search community.

13 (4) Undertaking interdisciplinary earth-system  
14 research, and coordinated interagency activities to  
15 improve understanding of the physical, chemical,  
16 and marine ecological features of the ocean, includ-  
17 ing the following:

18 (A) Ocean heat content and temperature.

19 (B) Arctic ocean changes, including sea ice  
20 and marine ecosystem monitoring and pre-  
21 diction.

22 (C) Ocean carbon and biogeochemistry.

23 (D) Any other research the Administrator  
24 determines appropriate.

1           (5) In collaboration with the U.S. Integrated  
2       Ocean Observing System, the National Data Buoy  
3       Center, and the National Oceanographic Partnership  
4       Program, ensuring coordination of ocean observing  
5       research and relevant activities with other appro-  
6       priate Federal departments and agencies, State and  
7       local governments, regional partners, academic insti-  
8       tutions, nongovernmental organizations, private sec-  
9       tor entities, and international ocean science and ob-  
10      serving bodies, including the Global Ocean Observing  
11      System.

12           (6) Accelerating development and enhancement  
13      of ocean observing technologies for forecasting im-  
14      provements of hurricane intensity, atmospheric riv-  
15      ers, and other extreme weather events.

16           (7) Building research capacity and increasing  
17      the use of autonomous observing systems to fill gaps  
18      in the coverage of observations in critical areas of  
19      the ocean.

20           (8) Integrating artificial intelligence and cloud  
21      technologies to optimize data use, as practical.

22           (9) Developing best practices for interactions  
23      with the ocean-coastal monitoring and observing  
24      science community, including strategies to foster

1 competition and avoid sole sources for critical com-  
2 ponents and data.

3 (c) FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW.—

4 (1) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than one year  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
6 ministrator shall develop a framework for prioritized  
7 monitoring and observational activities for research  
8 and metrics to measure progress in data quantity,  
9 quality, and management. In developing such frame-  
10 work, the Administrator shall identify and consult  
11 with users of the program’s environmental data.

12 (2) REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the  
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
14 shall implement a process for an annual review of  
15 activities carried out by the program. Such reviews  
16 shall include assessments of the quality and effi-  
17 ciency of the systems and data developed under the  
18 program.

19 (d) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The program may provide to  
21 academic institutions, cooperative institutions, pri-  
22 vate sector entities, and other entities the Adminis-  
23 trator determines appropriate financial assistance in  
24 the form of contracts, grants, or cooperative agree-

1       ments for research projects to carry out the pur-  
2       poses described in subsection (b).

3           (2)     REQUIREMENTS.—Financial     assistance  
4       under paragraph (1) shall be awarded on a competi-  
5       tive, merit-based process.

6       (e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “artificial  
7   intelligence”—

8           (1) has the meaning given such term in section  
9       5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative  
10      Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401); and

11          (2) includes machine learning, neural networks,  
12      and natural language processing.

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