

Calendar No. 189

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 190****[Report No. 119–80]**

To enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research Board.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

OCTOBER 14, 2025

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

To enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research
Board.

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 “North Pacific Research
5 Board Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD ENHANCEMENT.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 401(e) of the Depart-
 3 ment of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations
 4 Act, 1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(e)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (3)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (L), by striking
 7 “and” after the semicolon;

8 (B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the
 9 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

10 (C) in subparagraph (N), by striking the
 11 period at the end and inserting “; and”;

12 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (N)
 13 the following:

14 “(O) one member who shall represent Alas-
 15 ka Natives and possesses personal knowledge
 16 of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses
 17 and shall be nominated by the Board and ap-
 18 pointed by the Secretary.”; and

19 (E) by adding at the end the following:
 20 “Board members appointed under subpara-
 21 graphs (N) and (O) shall serve for 3-year
 22 terms, and may be reappointed once.”;

23 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “Not more
 24 than 15 percent” and inserting “Except as provided
 25 in paragraph (5), not more than 15 percent”;

1 ~~(3)~~ by redesignating paragraph ~~(5)~~ as para-
 2 graph ~~(6)~~; and

3 ~~(4)~~ by inserting after paragraph ~~(4)~~ the fol-
 4 lowing:

5 ~~“(5) If the amount made available for a fiscal~~
 6 ~~year under subsection (c)(2) is less than the amount~~
 7 ~~made available for the previous fiscal year, the Ad-~~
 8 ~~ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-~~
 9 ~~pheric Administration may increase the 15 percent~~
 10 ~~cap on administrative expenses provided under para-~~
 11 ~~graph (4)(B) for that fiscal year to prioritize—~~

12 ~~“(A) continuing operation of the Board;~~

13 ~~“(B) maximizing the percentage of funds~~
 14 ~~directed to research; and~~

15 ~~“(C) maintaining the highest quality~~
 16 ~~standards in administering grants under this~~
 17 ~~subsection.”.~~

18 ~~(b) WAIVER.—Beginning on the date of enactment~~
 19 ~~of this Act and ending on the date that is 5 years after~~
 20 ~~such date of enactment, the 15 percent cap on funds to~~
 21 ~~provide support for the North Pacific Research Board and~~
 22 ~~administer grants under section 401(c)(4)(B) of the De-~~
 23 ~~partment of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropria-~~
 24 ~~tions Act, 1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(c)(4)(B)) shall be~~
 25 ~~waived.~~

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “North Pacific Research*
 3 *Board Enhancement Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD ENHANCEMENT.**

5 (a) *AMENDMENTS.*—Section 401(e) of the Department
 6 of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
 7 1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(e)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Funds avail-
 9 able under subsection (c)(2) shall be used” and insert-
 10 ing “Not later than 14 days after the start of each fis-
 11 cal year, funds shall be made available under sub-
 12 section (c)(2)”;

13 (2) in paragraph (3)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (L), by striking “and”
 15 after the semicolon;

16 (B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the
 17 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

18 (C) in subparagraph (N), by striking the
 19 period at the end and inserting “; and”;

20 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the
 21 following:

22 “(O) one member who shall represent Alas-
 23 ka Natives and possesses personal knowledge of,
 24 and direct experience with, subsistence uses and
 25 shall be nominated by the Board and appointed
 26 by the Secretary.”; and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following:

2 “Board members appointed under subparagraphs
3 (N) and (O) shall serve for 3-year terms, and
4 may be reappointed once.”;

5 (3) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “Not more
6 than 15 percent” and inserting “Except as provided
7 in paragraph (5), not more than 15 percent”;

8 (4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
9 graph (6); and

10 (5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(5) If the amount made available for a fiscal
13 year under subsection (c)(2) is less than the amount
14 made available for the previous fiscal year, the Ad-
15 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
16 Administration may increase the 15 percent cap on
17 administrative expenses provided under paragraph
18 (4)(B) for that fiscal year to prioritize—

19 “(A) continuing operation of the Board;

20 “(B) maximizing the percentage of funds
21 directed to research; and

22 “(C) maintaining the highest quality stand-
23 ards in administering grants under this sub-
24 section.”.

1 (b) *WAIVER.—Beginning on the date of enactment of*
2 *this Act and ending on the date that is 4 years after such*
3 *date of enactment, the 15 percent cap on funds to provide*
4 *support for the North Pacific Research Board and admin-*
5 *ister grants under section 401(e)(4)(B) of the Department*
6 *of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,*
7 *1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(e)(4)(B)) shall be waived.*

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