

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2551

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2019

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. HUIZENGA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, 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 “Great Lakes Environ-
5 mental Sensitivity Index Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. UPDATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX**
2 **PRODUCTS OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND AT-**
3 **MOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR GREAT**
4 **LAKES.**

5 (a) UPDATE REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL SENSI-
6 TIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS FOR GREAT LAKES.—Not later
7 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall
9 commence updating the environmental sensitivity index
10 products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
11 istration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes.

12 (b) PERIODIC UPDATES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SEN-
13 SITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS GENERALLY.—Subject to the
14 availability of appropriations and the priorities set forth
15 in subsection (c), the Under Secretary shall—

16 (1) periodically update the environmental sensi-
17 tivity index products of the Administration; and

18 (2) endeavor to do so not less frequently than
19 once every 7 years.

20 (c) PRIORITIES.—When prioritizing geographic areas
21 to update environmental sensitivity index products, the
22 Under Secretary shall consider—

23 (1) the age of existing environmental sensitivity
24 index products for the areas;

1 (2) the occurrence of extreme events, be it nat-
2 ural or man-made, which have significantly altered
3 the shoreline or ecosystem since the last update;

4 (3) the natural variability of shoreline and
5 coastal environment; and

6 (4) the volume of vessel traffic and general vul-
7 nerability to spilled pollutants.

8 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCT
9 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “environmental
10 sensitivity index product” means a map or similar tool
11 that is utilized to identify sensitive shoreline, coastal or
12 offshore, resources prior to an oil spill event in order to
13 set baseline priorities for protection and plan cleanup
14 strategies, typically including information relating to
15 shoreline type, biological resources, and human use re-
16 sources.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
19 appropriated to the Under Secretary \$7,500,000 to
20 carry out subsection (a).

21 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated or
22 otherwise made available pursuant to paragraph (1)
23 shall be available to the Under Secretary for the
24 purposes set forth in such paragraph until expended.

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