

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5102

To designate public colleges and universities that provide research, data, and recommendations on physical and biological science, social science, economic analysis, policy analysis, risk analysis, monitoring, predicting, and planning for sea-level rise and associated coastal flooding and shoreline erosion as National Centers of Excellence in Coastal Resilience Research and Education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To designate public colleges and universities that provide research, data, and recommendations on physical and biological science, social science, economic analysis, policy analysis, risk analysis, monitoring, predicting, and planning for sea-level rise and associated coastal flooding and shoreline erosion as National Centers of Excellence in Coastal Resilience Research and Education, 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 “Coastal Resilience Re-
5 search and Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN COASTAL**
7 **RESILIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall des-
10 ignate public institutions of higher education as National
11 Centers of Excellence in Coastal Resilience Research and
12 Education (in this section referred to as “National Cen-
13 ters of Excellence”). The Administrator shall make the
14 first such designation by not later than 180 days after
15 the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of such designation
17 are the following:

18 (1) To recognize institutions of higher edu-
19 cation that have exhibited national leadership in re-
20 search and education in coastal climate change ad-
21 aptation and mitigation.

22 (2) To identify such National Centers of Excel-
23 lence as sources of expert advice and guidance for
24 Federal agencies engaged in research and education
25 related to coastal climate change resilience.

1 (3) To formalize and enhance existing collabo-
2 rations and partnerships between public institutions
3 of higher education and Federal agencies, with the
4 goal of ensuring information and recommendations
5 are communicated effectively between such entities.

6 (c) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-
7 trator shall designate as a National Center of Excellence
8 only a public institution of higher education that—

9 (1) has demonstrated proven expertise in the
10 physical, engineering, and environmental sciences,
11 particularly research and education focused on the
12 impacts of sea-level rise, coastal flooding, or shore-
13 line erosion;

14 (2) has demonstrated a commitment to under-
15 standing the socioeconomic impacts of climate
16 change;

17 (3) is located in a State that frequently experi-
18 ences coastal flooding or shoreline erosion in connec-
19 tion with sea-level rise, severe coastal storms, or sea-
20 water intrusion into groundwater supplies;

21 (4) has previously partnered with, or is receiv-
22 ing funds from, Federal agencies for research on
23 coastal flooding or shoreline erosion issues;

24 (5) has collaborated with State agencies or
25 State legislators as technical and scientific advisory

1 entities with respect to coastal flooding or shoreline
2 erosion;

3 (6) can demonstrate institutional collaboration
4 in coastal flooding or shoreline erosion research and
5 education with other public institutions of higher
6 education, including minority-serving institutions,
7 within the same State; and

8 (7) can demonstrate a history of convening
9 local, State, or Federal entities to develop plans for
10 coastal flooding or shoreline erosion.

11 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION;**

12 **REVIEWS AND ADDITIONAL DESIGNS.**

13 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall an-
14 nually submit to Congress and the President a report de-
15 scribing the activities, partnership and collaborations,
16 Federal policy recommendations, previous and continuing
17 budgets, and findings of, and any other applicable infor-
18 mation from, the National Centers of Excellence, and
19 make such reports available to the public in an easily ac-
20 cessible format on the website of the National Oceanic and
21 Atmospheric Administration.

22 (b) REVIEW OF REPORTS FROM NATIONAL CENTERS
23 OF EXCELLENCE.—The Administrator shall review re-
24 ports from National Centers of Excellence to ensure that
25 recommendations and guidance of such Centers regarding

1 sea-level rise, coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, and re-
2 lated issues are communicated to relevant Federal agen-
3 cies.

4 (c) REVIEW OF NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCEL-
5 LENCE AND POTENTIAL DESIGNEES.—The Administrator
6 shall periodically review each National Center of Excel-
7 lence and potential new designees as such Centers, to—

8 (1) ensure that each National Center of Excel-
9 lence continues to meet the criteria for designation
10 under this Act; and

11 (2) designate additional National Centers of
12 Excellence in accordance with this Act.

13 (d) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines under
14 subsection (c) that a National Center for Excellence does
15 not meet the criteria for such designation, the Secretary
16 shall revoke such designation by such process as the Sec-
17 retary determines appropriate.

18 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.**

19 In carrying out this Act, the Administrator may
20 use—

21 (1) the National Oceanographic Partnership
22 Program established by section 8931 of title 10,
23 United States Code, as a venue for collaboration and
24 coordination to leverage partnerships between public

1 institutions of higher education and Federal agen-
2 cies;

3 (2) the Coastlines and People initiative under
4 the National Science Foundation as a tool to use on-
5 going interdisciplinary research; and

6 (3) the National Sea Grant College Program as
7 a resource to help foster collaboration between public
8 institutions of higher education and Federal agen-
9 cies.

10 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
13 term “institution of higher education” has the
14 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
15 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (2) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
17 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
18 tution of higher education eligible to receive funds
19 under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
20 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

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