

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2782

To improve provisions of law relating to sexual harassment and assault prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve provisions of law relating to sexual harassment and assault prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 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. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO SEXUAL HAR-**
4 **ASSMENT AND ASSAULT PREVENTION AT THE**
5 **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AD-**
6 **MINISTRATION.**

7 (a) ANONYMOUS REPORTING.—Subtitle C of title
8 XXXV of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
9 cal Year 2017 (33 U.S.C. 894 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 3541(b)(3)(B) (33 U.S.C.
2 894(b)(3)(B)), by striking “confidentially” and in-
3 sserting “anonymously”; and

4 (2) in section 3542(b)(5)(B) (33 U.S.C.
5 894a(b)(5)(B)), by striking “confidentially” and in-
6 sserting “anonymously”.

7 (b) INVESTIGATIVE REQUIREMENT.—Such subtitle is
8 amended—

9 (1) by redesignating sections 3546 and 3547 as
10 sections 3548 and 3549, respectively; and

11 (2) by inserting after section 3545 the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 3546. INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENT.**

14 **“(a) REQUIREMENT TO INVESTIGATE.—**

15 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Com-
16 merce, acting through the Under Secretary for
17 Oceans and Atmosphere, shall ensure that each alle-
18 gation of sexual assault reported under section 3541
19 and each allegation of sexual harassment reported
20 under section 3542 is investigated thoroughly and
21 promptly.

22 **“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMENCEMENT**
23 **OF INVESTIGATION.—**It is the sense of Congress
24 that the Secretary should ensure that an investiga-
25 tion of an alleged sexual assault reported under sec-

