

Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 327

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Veterans Recreation Act”.

**SEC. 2. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.**

Section 805(b) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **DISABILITY DISCOUNT.**—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without charge and for the lifetime of the passholder, to the following:

“(A) Any United States citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled, within the meaning of the term ‘disability’ under section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102), if the citizen or person provides adequate proof of the disability and such citizenship or residency.

“(B) Any veteran who has been found to have a service-connected disability under title 38, United States Code.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill to provide wounded veterans with free access to our national parks and our public lands. This clearly is a bipartisan priority, and thanks to the leadership and hard work of my colleague, Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire, it cleared the Senate with unanimous support.

I also know that my good friend, RAUL RUIZ from California, the House sponsor of the bill, worked very hard and cares very deeply about the impact this bill will have on the veteran community.

The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service currently waive fees for all disabled Americans, and this bill will make this a permanent and standard feature for all veterans with a service-related disability, ensuring that there are no barriers to access to the lands and waters these brave Americans have sacrificed so much to protect.

Sending this bill to the White House for the President’s signature less than a week after Veterans Day is also fitting. It is a meaningful action that will impact the lives of wounded veterans and recognize their important contribution and sacrifice. In the Natural Resources Committee, we have heard numerous stories about the healing and restorative powers of our public lands for countless veterans.

Again, I want to thank the sponsors of this legislation for their attention to this issue. I strongly urge a “yes” vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, S. 327, requires the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to make available, free of charge, a lifetime national parks and Federal recreation land pass to any veteran who has been found to have service-connected disabilities.

This builds upon the Secretary of the Interior’s, Mr. Bernhardt’s, recent Secretarial order which provided free park and public land passes to all U.S. veterans and Gold Star families. Providing free access to our Nation’s veterans connects them to the treasured lands that they fought to protect.

Each year thousands of veterans will benefit by recreating on these public lands, and providing a park pass is a small token of gratitude to our Nation’s cherished servicemen and -women. So I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 327.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DIGITAL COAST ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1069) to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coast-

al geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1069

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Digital Coast Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Digital Coast is a model approach for effective Federal partnerships with State and local government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

(2) Access to current, accurate, uniform, and standards-based geospatial information, tools, and training to characterize the United States coastal region is critical for public safety and for the environment, infrastructure, and economy of the United States.

(3) More than half of all people of the United States (153,000,000) currently live on or near a coast and an additional 12,000,000 are expected in the next decade.

(4) Coastal counties in the United States average 300 persons per square mile, compared with the national average of 98.

(5) On a typical day, more than 1,540 permits for construction of single-family homes are issued in coastal counties, combined with other commercial, retail, and institutional construction to support this population.

(6) Over half of the economic productivity of the United States is located within coastal regions.

(7) Highly accurate, high-resolution remote sensing and other geospatial data play an increasingly important role in decision making and management of the coastal zone and economy, including for—

(A) flood and coastal storm surge prediction;

(B) hazard risk and vulnerability assessment;

(C) emergency response and recovery planning;

(D) community resilience to longer range coastal change;

(E) local planning and permitting;

(F) habitat and ecosystem health assessments; and

(G) landscape change detection.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **COASTAL REGION.**—The term “coastal region” means the area of United States waters extending inland from the shoreline to include coastal watersheds and seaward to the territorial sea.

(2) **COASTAL STATE.**—The term “coastal State” has the meaning given the term “coastal state” in section 304 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453).

(3) **FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE.**—The term “Federal Geographic Data Committee” means the interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis.

(4) **REMOTE SENSING AND OTHER GEOSPATIAL.**—The term “remote sensing and other geospatial” means collecting, storing, retrieving, or disseminating graphical or digital data depicting natural or manmade physical features, phenomena, or boundaries of the Earth and any information related thereto, including surveys, maps, charts, satellite and airborne remote sensing data, images, LiDAR, and services performed by professionals such as surveyors,

photogrammetrists, hydrographers, geodesists, cartographers, and other such services.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIGITAL COAST.

##### (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program for the provision of an enabling platform that integrates geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices to address coastal management issues and needs. Under the program, the Secretary shall strive to enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and coastal economic growth and development by helping communities address their issues, needs, and challenges through cost-effective and participatory solutions.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Digital Coast” (in this section referred to as the “program”).

(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall ensure that the program provides data integration, tool development, training, documentation, dissemination, and archive by—

(1) making data and resulting integrated products developed under this section readily accessible via the Digital Coast internet website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the GeoPlatform.gov and data.gov internet websites, and such other information distribution technologies as the Secretary considers appropriate;

(2) developing decision-support tools that use and display resulting integrated data and provide training on use of such tools;

(3) documenting such data to Federal Geographic Data Committee standards; and

(4) archiving all raw data acquired under this Act at the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data center or such other Federal data center as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the activities carried out under the program to optimize data collection, sharing, and integration, and to minimize duplication by—

(1) consulting with coastal managers and decision makers concerning coastal issues, and sharing information and best practices, as the Secretary considers appropriate, with—

(A) coastal States;

(B) local governments; and

(C) representatives of academia, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations;

(2) consulting with other Federal agencies, including interagency committees, on relevant Federal activities, including activities carried out under the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892 et seq.);

(3) participating, pursuant to section 216 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), in the establishment of such standards and common protocols as the Secretary considers necessary to assure the interoperability of remote sensing and other geospatial data with all users of such information within—

(A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(B) other Federal agencies;

(C) State and local government; and

(D) the private sector;

(4) coordinating with, seeking assistance and cooperation of, and providing liaison to

the Federal Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906 of April 11, 1994 (59 Fed. Reg. 17671), as amended by Executive Order 13286 of February 28, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 10619); and

(5) developing and maintaining a best practices document that sets out the best practices used by the Secretary in carrying out the program and providing such document to the United States Geological Survey, the Corps of Engineers, and other relevant Federal agencies.

(d) FILLING NEEDS AND GAPS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) maximize the use of remote sensing and other geospatial data collection activities conducted for other purposes and under other authorities;

(2) focus on filling data needs and gaps for coastal management issues, including with respect to areas that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, were underserved by coastal data and the areas of the Arctic that are under the jurisdiction of the United States;

(3) pursuant to the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), support continue improvement in existing efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management and other purposes, including—

(A) coastal elevation data;

(B) land use and land cover data;

(C) socioeconomic and human use data;

(D) critical infrastructure data;

(E) structures data;

(F) living resources and habitat data;

(G) cadastral data; and

(H) aerial imagery; and

(4) integrate the priority supporting data set forth under paragraph (3) with other available data for the benefit of the broadest measure of coastal resource management constituents and applications.

##### (e) FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary—

(A) may enter into financial agreements to carry out the program, including—

(i) support to non-Federal entities that participate in implementing the program; and

(ii) grants, cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, contracts, or any other agreement on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, with other Federal, tribal, State, and local governmental and nongovernmental entities; and

(B) may, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into such contracts with private sector entities for such products and services as the Secretary determines may be necessary to collect, process, and provide remote sensing and other geospatial data and products for purposes of the program.

##### (2) FEES.—

(A) ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION.—The Secretary may, to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, assess and collect fees for the conduct of any training, workshop, or conference that advances the purposes of the program.

(B) AMOUNTS.—The amount of a fee under this paragraph may not exceed the sum of costs incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the Secretary as a direct result of the conduct of the training, workshop, or conference, including for subsistence expenses incidental to the training, workshop, or conference, as applicable.

(C) USE OF FEES.—Amounts collected by the Secretary in the form of fees under this paragraph shall be available to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts for—

(i) the costs incurred for conducting an activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) the expenses described in subparagraph (B).

(3) SURVEY AND MAPPING.—Contracts entered into under paragraph (1)(B) shall be considered “surveying and mapping” services as such term is used in and as such contracts are awarded by the Secretary in accordance with the selection procedures in chapter 11 of title 40, United States Code.

(f) OCEAN ECONOMY.—The Secretary may establish publically available tools that track ocean and Great Lakes economy data for each coastal State.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year 2021 through 2025 to carry out the program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Digital Coast Act, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent, is an important piece of legislation, one which we passed here in the House as part of the Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act back in December of 2019.

The importance of data in today's world can't be overstated, nor can the role of the climate crisis. NOAA's Digital Coast Partnership supports coastal managers with the data they need to confront today's challenges with intensifying storms, coastal flooding, sea level rise, and coastal economic development.

Digital Coast is a web-based platform containing data, tools, and training resources to support our coastal managers. This includes economic data, satellite imagery, visualization tools, and predictive tools gathered from hundreds of sources across academia, non-governmental, Federal, State, Tribal, and county partners. The Digital Coast Partnership also provides coastal managers with collaborative events like conferences, workshops, and meetings where these managers can focus on important issues like coastal resilience, ocean planning, and habitat protection.

This commonsense, good governance legislation would formally authorize a program that has been proven to work. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates that the Digital Coast Partnership currently produces a 3:1 benefit-to-cost ratio, and they predict that this ratio will increase to over 5:1 by fiscal year 2028.

Let's continue to support this amazing program and make the Digital Coast Act into public law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), who will explain and introduce this particular bill. The gentlewoman is someone on our committee who clearly understands the significance of mapping, especially for storm preparations and flood management and everything else.

I wish to congratulate Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN because she is the only one of us on the floor who just recently was returned here for a 4-year term.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BISHOP for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1069. This legislation authorizes NOAA's Digital Coast Program and ensures coastal communities have up-to-date data and tools to prepare for storms, manage floods, restore shorelines, and plan for long-term coastal resilience.

NOAA's Digital Coast Program has been extremely valuable for jurisdictions like Puerto Rico, where we have 799 miles of coastline and 62 percent of our population lives in coastal municipalities. For instance, after Hurricane Maria devastated the island with powerful storm surge and flash floods, Digital Coast staffers updated their Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper to incorporate high-resolution flood maps for the territory. They also held training sessions on flood mapping and resilient infrastructure, allowing officials to visualize storm surge, high tide flooding, sea level rise, and tsunami scenarios in order to increase our preparedness for such events.

This bill would build upon this work, authorizing NOAA to continue providing comprehensive mapping information that allows planners and coastal managers across the Nation to make accurate decisions and smart investments. This bill will also require NOAA to focus additional data collection efforts on underserved coastal areas.

As Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress, I know firsthand the importance of having reliable coastal data to help respond to emergencies, to build resilience, and manage water resources. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support S. 1069.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) to speak on this bill.

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Digital Coast Act, a bipartisan and bicameral bill that I have put forth for consideration by this Chamber the last 10 years. I have spent a decade pushing this legis-

lation because, while it is critical to coastal communities like mine in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we all have a stake in protecting America's shorelines. But it is not just about protecting our environment, it is about protecting our economy. Our country's 95,000 miles of shoreline are home to more than 42 percent of our country's population and millions of businesses that supply most of our gross domestic product.

This bill's Republican House cosponsor, Mr. DON YOUNG, represents Alaska, a State with 44,000 miles of coastline. The fishing industry is their largest private-sector employer.

Every day, planners in our hometowns are asking questions such as: What is the storm surge in this community?

Or: How much is this bluff going to erode?

Or: What are the water level trends at the marina where we want to build a new dock?

Unfortunately, the current coastal maps and geospatial data they are relying on for answers are woefully inaccurate, outdated, and nonexistent. The Digital Coast Act will allow professionals at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to begin a comprehensive mapping process of our Nation's fragile shorelines.

Coastal communities will be able to use the data to better prepare for storms, manage floods, restore ecosystems, and plan smarter developments near America's coasts, harbors, ports, and shorelines. In Alaska, better mapping will improve search and rescue operations.

Also, NOAA will train decision makers at the local and State level on how to use the data sets to answer questions about storm surge, erosion, and water level trends. The data will also be available on NOAA's website for free and easy public access so that every citizen can leverage the expertise of the Federal Government.

This bill is more important now than it was a decade ago when I first introduced it. We are seeing more storms that are stronger, and sea level rise is accelerating. We can't wait any longer.

In addition to Congressman DON YOUNG, I thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP for their work in bringing this bill to the floor. Finally, I thank Senators TAMMY BALDWIN and LISA MURKOWSKI for championing this bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan, common-sense investment in our Nation's coastal communities.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Digital Coast Act will enhance Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities' decisionmaking regarding coastal resiliency, mapping, and infrastructure planning. It is one of these good measures that we need to support. I truly support it. It deals with the entire coast of the Nation. It deals with

the coasts in other areas that are not yet part of the 50 States—yet—and it deals with the Great Salt Lake. I am sorry, it deals with the Great Lakes.

What I am saying is the only way you could improve this stupid thing is if you added the Great Salt Lake into it as well. But as part of the Intermountain West, I'm used to being ignored by the rest of Congress as they go merrily on their way, not realizing the kind of value that we have in the Intermountain West.

So despite that flaw in this particular piece of legislation, I support it wholeheartedly and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this particular piece.

Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the gentleman from California if he has any further speakers.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1069, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 910) to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 910

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

#### SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b) (33 U.S.C. 1127(b)) is amended by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

(b) PLACEMENTS IN CONGRESS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following: