



H.R. 2400 - Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 2400 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Delegate Madeline Bordallo (D-GU) on May 21, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2400 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 23, 2007.

Summary

This legislation directs the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish an integrated Federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the Continental Shelf of the United States.

The legislation also establishes an Interagency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping. The committee will consist of senior representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Chief of Naval Operations, the United States Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the National Science Foundation, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other appropriate Federal agencies involved in ocean and coastal mapping. The goal of this committee will be to work with NOAA in coordinating efforts with all available agencies to assist in the mapping of the above water areas.

The Committee will be required to submit a report to Congress no later than 6 months after the legislation is enacted. This report will focus on a plan to co-ordinate agencies. 18 months after the legislation is enacted, the Committee will be required to submit a second report detailing their accomplishments as laid out in the initial report.

The legislation authorizes to be appropriated to the Administrator of NOAA to carry out this Act:

- \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

- \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and
- \$45,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2015.

This money will be used to assist in the coordination efforts of the Committee.

The legislation also authorizes to be appropriated to the Joint Ocean and Coastal Mapping Centers:

- \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and
- \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2015.

For fiscal years 2008 through 2015 to the departments of the agencies, and the independent agencies, the head of each such department or agency may make available not more than \$10,000,000 per fiscal year to carry out interagency activities.

Background

Currently there are several agencies within the government as well as private firms involved in mapping the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the Continental Shelf of the United States. This legislation establishes a committee which will be tasked with finding ways to coordinate these efforts to make the projects move along faster.

The agencies currently work independent of each other and some of the process and technology are duplicative in nature. The object of this act is to re-evaluate what is being done in the areas of mapping, how they can be improved, and if there are new technologies available that could assist these organizations

Cost

At the time of publication, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

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