



## H.R. 3352 – Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3352 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 Representative Don Young (R-AK) on August 2, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported as amended by unanimous consent on March 12, 2008.

H.R. 3352 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 31, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 3352 amends the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-383) to revise the definitions of "hydrographic data" and "hydrographic services," to include shoreline surveying and water level observations. The bill authorizes the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create and maintain a Joint Hydrographic Institute. While the NOAA Administrator is primarily focused on promoting safe and efficient maritime navigation, the bill also provides that the Administrator may acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services to support the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources, to protect life and property, to support the resumption of commerce after emergencies and disasters, and to meet homeland security and maritime domain awareness needs.

H.R. 3352 authorizes a total of \$709.23 million to fund five NOAA hydrographic programs over four years; \$172.6 million for 2009, \$174.94 million for 2010, \$179.21 million for 2011, and \$182.48 million for 2012. Current authorization levels for the same five NOAA hydrographic programs for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 are \$211.5 million and \$158.9 million, respectively. Additionally, the bill authorizes \$75 million for the acquisition of a replacement hydrographic survey vessel.

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### BACKGROUND

Hydrography is a science studying the physical features and characteristics of a body of water and its adjoining coastal land area. The collection of hydrographic data is especially used when determining the navigability of waters, and determining safe navigation.

The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 1998 was included as part of P.L. 105-383. It sets the responsibilities of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regarding hydrographic data, services, and standards. The NOAA is also responsible for the creation and maintenance of a national hydrographic database where such information may be accessed. The Act authorizes contracts to acquire hydrographic data and sets provisions for hydrographic services, such as nautical mapping and charting, and tide monitoring systems.

[NOAA hydrography homepage](#)

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### COST

H.R. 3352 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.