116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 988

To provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 6, 2019

Mr. Posey (for himself, Ms. Bonamici, and Mr. Mast) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

- 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 "National Estuaries and
- 5 Acidification Research Act of 2019" or the "NEAR Act
- 6 of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2	Congress	finds	the	follo	wing.
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- (1) Ocean acidification impacts human health, natural resources, and the environmental, economic, and recreational uses of the coastline.
 - (2) The current understanding of ocean acidification impacts on estuarine ecosystems is inadequate to fully prepare and manage for changing environmental conditions in nearshore locations.
- (3) While pH can be measured with high precision and accuracy in open ocean environments, more understanding of the carbonate system in estuarine ecosystems is needed for precise and accurate measurements and observations.
- (4) The interaction of multiple stressors, including salinity, pH, temperature, sea level rise, and nutrient input, within estuarine ecosystems is inadequately understood for managing the health, economic, recreational, and environmental impacts driven by these interactions.
- (5) A better understanding is needed of how anthropogenic influences in coastal environments affect estuarine ecosystems.
- (6) More integration and coordination is needed among regional, national, and global environmental observations in estuarine environments, supporting

1	prior investments in related topics such as nutrient
2	loading, hypoxia, ocean acidification, and harmful
3	algae bloom research and observational systems.
4	SEC. 3. STUDY EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF OCEAN ACIDIFIC
5	CATION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL
6	STRESSORS ON ESTUARINE ENVIRONMENTS.
7	(a) In General.—Not later than 60 days after the
8	date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce
9	shall make appropriate arrangements with the Ocean
10	Studies Board of the National Academies under which the
11	Board shall conduct a study that—
12	(1) examines the existing science of ocean acidi-
13	fication in estuarine environments;
14	(2) examines the challenges to studying ocean
15	acidification and ocean acidification's interactions
16	with other environment stressors in estuarine envi-
17	ronments;
18	(3) provides recommendations for improving fu-
19	ture research with respect to ocean acidification in
20	estuarine environments; and
21	(4) identifies pathways for applying science in
22	management and mitigation decisions relating to
23	ocean acidification in estuarine environments.
24	(b) Contents of Study.—The study described
25	under subsection (a) shall include—

1	(1) the current state of data collection, inter-
2	pretation, storage, and retrieval and observational
3	infrastructure of abiotic and biotic parameters in es-
4	tuarine ecosystems;
5	(2) how environmental and anthropogenic
6	changes or disturbances could affect abiotic and bi-
7	otic processes within estuaries;
8	(3) how estuarine biotic and abiotic processes
9	will be affected under predicted environmental
10	changes;
11	(4) the behavior of the carbonate system within
12	estuarine environments;
13	(5) the interactions of the carbonate system
14	with other biotic and abiotic characteristics of estua-
15	rine ecosystems;
16	(6) the gaps that exist in understanding the
17	socio-economic and health impacts of ocean acidifica-
18	tion in estuaries;
19	(7) future directions for scientific research; and
20	(8) pathways for applying science in manage-
21	ment and mitigation decisions.
22	(c) Report.—In entering into an arrangement under
23	subsection (a), the Secretary shall request that the Board

24 transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study

- 1 not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of
- 2 this Act.

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