

S 2181

Tsunami Warning and Education Reauthorization Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 27, 2014

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Mar 27, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2181>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]

Party: Democratic • State: AK • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 27, 2014
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 27, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 27, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 5309	Related bill	Sep 9, 2014: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Tsunami Warning and Education Reauthorization Act of 2014 - Reauthorizes the Tsunami Warning and Education Act with specified appropriations for FY2015-FY2019.

Expands the tsunami forecasting and warning program operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the National Weather Service (NWS), to include: (1) tsunami inundation models and maps for use in safeguarding port and harbor operations, (2) a requirement that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) provide NOAA with information from regional seismic networks previously installed in areas of sparse instrumentation, (3) the capability to disseminate graphical warning products and wireless emergency alerts to at-risk states and tsunami communities in coordination with existing warning systems, and (4) the integration of commercial and federal undersea communications cables with other environmental observing technologies.

Consolidates separate tsunami warning systems into a single warning system capable of: (1) forecasting tsunamis anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings; and (2) providing adequate warnings in specified areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico.

Requires such warning system to support international tsunami forecasting and warning efforts.

Requires NOAA to establish or maintain tsunami warning centers, including existing centers in Alaska and Hawaii, as part of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

Requires tsunami warning centers to maintain redundant warning capabilities and an ability to perform back-up duties for each other.

Requires NWS regions and local forecast offices to coordinate with such centers.

Directs NOAA to establish uniform operational procedures for such centers, including standardized software applications, checklists, decision support tools, and tsunami warning products. Requires NOAA to ensure that such centers carry out formal outreach plans.

Requires NOAA to acquire the assistance of other federal agencies that have technology assets necessary to support the forecasting and warning program.

Modifies the tsunami hazard mitigation program to provide for: (1) technical and financial assistance to coastal states, territories, tribes, and local governments to develop and implement mitigation activities; (2) the integration of tsunami preparedness and mitigation programs into ongoing state-based hazard warning, resilience planning, and risk management activities, including predisaster planning, disaster recovery, and community development and redevelopment programs in affected areas; (3) the development of regional risk assessments; and (4) the propagation of standards for community planning, education, and training products, programs, and tools.

Prohibits certain national standards from preventing states, territories, tribes, and local governments from designating additional areas as being at-risk based on knowledge of local conditions.

Directs NOAA to report to Congress regarding the authorities and activities needed to have NWS's TsunamiReady program accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

Expands the tsunami research program to include development of the technical basis for validation of tsunami maps,

numerical tsunami models, digital elevation models, and forecasts.

Removes a requirement that NOAA operate an International Tsunami Information Center for Pacific Ocean nations.

Directs NOAA to establish a standing subcommittee of the Science Advisory Board to provide advice on matters regarding tsunami science, technology, and preparedness.

Requires NOAA to report to Congress regarding the ways that tsunami warnings can be standardized and streamlined with warnings for hurricanes, coastal storms, and other coastal flooding events.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 27, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 27, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.