

S 129

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jan 12, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. (Sep 19, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/129>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

Party: Republican • **State:** MS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 12, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 12, 2017
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jan 12, 2017
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Mar 9, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 30, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 30, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 19, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4306	Related bill	Jan 3, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2017

(Sec. 3) This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to award Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships. Currently, NOAA has discretion in awarding such fellowships. Those fellowships support the placement of graduate students in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources in positions within the executive and legislative branches.

(Sec. 4) NOAA must establish priorities for the use of donations given for the National Sea Grant Program.

(Sec. 5) The National Sea Grant Advisory Board must report to Congress regarding the state of the National Sea Grant Program every four years, rather than biennially.

(Sec. 6) The National Sea Grant Program must consist of financial assistance for research, education, extension, training, technology transfer, public service, and certain other activities.

(Sec. 7) NOAA must notify Congress in writing at least 30 days before designating an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant college or sea grant institute. NOAA may not make such a designation if, before the end of the 30-day period, Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving the designation.

(Sec. 8) An agency may appoint a recipient of a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship to a federal position within two years after such recipient successfully completes a fellowship.

(Sec. 9) The bill reauthorizes through FY2022 the National Sea Grant College Program and authorizes through FY2022 grants for university research on: (1) the biology, prevention, and control of aquatic nonnative species; (2) oyster diseases, oyster restoration, and oyster-related human health risks; (3) the biology, prevention, and forecasting of harmful algal blooms; and (4) sustainable aquaculture techniques and technologies. The bill also authorizes through FY2022 grants for: (1) fishery research and extension activities conducted by sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes to enhance existing core program funding; and (2) priority issues identified in the National Sea Grant Program's strategic plan.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 19, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Sep 18, 2017:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 18, 2017:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 18, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- **Sep 14, 2017:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5770-5771)
- **Sep 14, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 14, 2017:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 30, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune without amendment. With written report No. 115-15.
- **Mar 30, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 26.
- **Mar 30, 2017:** An errata sheet on written report No. 115-15 was printed.
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jan 12, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 12, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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