

## S 2960

DESCEND Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Dec 2, 2019

**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. (Dec 2, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2960>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]

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

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Dec 2, 2019
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Dec 9, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 2, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5126	Related bill	<b>Jan 13, 2021:</b> Became Public Law No: 116-340.

## **Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2019 or the DESCEND Act of 2019**

This bill addresses the use of descending devices to release reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. (A descending device is an instrument that will release fish at a depth sufficient for the fish to be able to recover from the effects of barotrauma.)

Specifically, the bill requires

- commercial and recreational fishermen to possess a venting tool or descending device that is rigged and ready for use when fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone,
- the Department of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study and produce a report on discard mortality in the Gulf reef fish fisheries, and
- Commerce and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to develop guidance for reporting discards and associated mortality and develop a plan to assess the effectiveness and usage of barotrauma-reducing devices.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 2, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 2, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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