HR 5126

DESCEND Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources
Introduced: Nov 15, 2019
Current Status: Became Public Law No: 116-340.
Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 116-340. (Jan 13, 2021)
Law: 116-340 (Enacted Jan 13, 2021)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5126

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6]
Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Nov 15, 2019
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Nov 15, 2019
Rep. Cunningham, Joe [D-SC-1]	D · SC		Dec 11, 2019
Rep. Rooney, Francis [R-FL-19]	R · FL		Dec 11, 2019
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jan 13, 2020
Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-11]	R · FL		Sep 24, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 21, 2020
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Mar 11, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 2960	Related bill	**Dec 2, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Summary (as of Jan 13, 2021)

Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2020 or the DESCEND Act of 2020

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

- **Jan 13, 2021:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 13, 2021:** Became Public Law No: 116-340.
- **Jan 1, 2021:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation discharged by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7902)
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 19, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Mrs. Dingell moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5176-5178)
- **Oct 1, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 5126.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Oct 1, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5176)
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 24, 2020:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 116-531.
- **Sep 24, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 431.
- **Mar 11, 2020:** Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Discharged.
- **Mar 11, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 11, 2020:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jan 14, 2020:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Dec 4, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Nov 15, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 15, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

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