

HR 2865

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Improvements Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Apr 28, 2021

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. (Jul 5, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2865>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]

Party: Democratic • State: OR • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Apr 28, 2021
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Apr 28, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 5, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4690	Related bill	Dec 30, 2022: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 502.

## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Improvements Act of 2021**

This bill addresses sexual harassment and sexual assault involving personnel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The bill specifies that NOAA's sexual harassment prevention and response policy applies to personnel such as observers, at-sea monitors, and voting members and staff of regional fishery management councils.

It also requires victim advocates at NOAA to be full-time employees whose sole job is advocacy for survivors rather than a volunteer collateral duty of an existing employee.

Additionally, the bill expands reporting requirements on sexual harassment, sexual assault, and equal opportunity employment.

The bill also provides for a restricted reporting structure that allows survivors of sexual assault to receive services without triggering an investigative process.

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations within NOAA must develop and implement a policy to report to the Coast Guard Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise the names of NOAA personnel who are under investigation for an offense detrimental to good discipline and safety at sea, such as sexual harassment or sexual assault or any other offense for which suspension or revocation of a merchant mariner credential is either mandatory or sought.

Further, the bill removes the requirements that acts of assault, resistance, opposition, intimidation, sexual harassment, bribery, or interference with a fishery observer be forcible in nature and occur on a vessel to be unlawful.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 5, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.