

HR 5490

Bolstering Ecosystems Against Coastal Harm Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Sep 14, 2023

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 118-117.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 118-117. (Nov 25, 2024)

Law: 118-117 (Enacted Nov 25, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5490>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kiggans, Jennifer A [R-VA-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		May 31, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Dec 6, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 2958	Related bill	Apr 20, 2024: Held at the desk.

Bolstering Ecosystems Against Coastal Harm Act or the BEACH Act

This act modifies the coastal areas belonging to the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) and which are, therefore, ineligible to receive federal financial assistance for land development. It also expands exceptions to this restriction, establishes additional requirements for agencies administering the CBRS, and requires a study relating to coastal barrier ecosystems.

Specifically, the act updates and replaces existing CBRS maps with maps recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in a 2022 report to Congress titled *John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project*. Affected coastal areas are located in 13 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

In addition, the act creates new exceptions to the limitation on federal financial assistance for certain (1) aquaculture operations (e.g., shellfish production) and (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coastal storm risk management projects. The act also provides that insurable structures (i.e., walled and roofed buildings) that are on the ground in areas added to the CBRS within one year of enactment remain eligible for federal financial assistance.

The act directs FWS to issue regulations requiring owners or lessors of real property in communities affected by the CBRS to disclose this information to prospective buyers or lessees.

Additionally, the act provides that FWS shall develop and finalize guidance relating to the expenditure of federal funds in emergency situations that threaten life, land, and property immediately adjacent to a system unit. The act also generally requires agencies that are involved with the CBRS to revise or issue regulations or guidance as necessary within one year of enactment.

Finally, the act directs FWS and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a scientific evaluation of the dynamics of coastal barrier ecosystems. FWS and USGS must provide related recommendations for the CBRS to Congress.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 25, 2024:** Signed by President.
- **Nov 25, 2024:** Became Public Law No: 118-117.
- **Nov 21, 2024:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 20, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Nov 19, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Nov 19, 2024:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S6638)
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 546.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Mr. Westerman moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5713-5719)
- **Sep 24, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 5490.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5713-5718)
- **Sep 24, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5713-5718)
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 12, 2024:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 118-667.
- **Sep 12, 2024:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 563.
- **Dec 6, 2023:** Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Discharged
- **Dec 6, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 28, 2023:** Subcommittee Hearings Held
- **Sep 26, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.
- **Sep 14, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 14, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

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