

S 2873

Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025

**Congress:** 119 (2025–2027, Current)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Sep 18, 2025

**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. (Sep 18, 2025)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2873>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor                 | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Sen. Schmitt, Eric [R-MO] | R · MO        |      | Oct 1, 2025 |

Committee Activity

| Committee                                       | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Sep 18, 2025 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship   | Last Action                                                                                                                        |
|------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 119 HR 261 | Identical bill | <b>Feb 12, 2026:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |

## **Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025**

This bill prohibits the Department of Commerce from enforcing certain permit requirements for activities related to undersea fiber optic cables in national marine sanctuaries.

Specifically, Commerce may not prohibit or require an authorization for any covered activities related to undersea fiber optic cables if a license, lease, or permit has been issued by a state or federal agency to authorize the covered activity. Covered activities are the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary.

The bill also authorizes Commerce to direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to engage in interagency cooperation regarding federal agency actions that are likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure a resource in a national marine sanctuary and involve covered activities.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Sep 18, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 18, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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