



Save Our Seas Act of 2018

S. 3508: An act to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes

Bill at a glance



Sen. Dan Sullivan
(R-AK)
Bill sponsor

Senate co-sponsors:

Sheldon Whitehouse
(D-RI)

James M. Inhofe
(R-OK)

Bill Nelson
(D-FL)

Bill overview

- Reauthorizes the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, which promotes international action to reduce marine debris

Section 101

- Tasks NOAA, in accordance with Department of State and other Federal agencies, to provide technical assistance to improve and expand waste management systems internationally
- Determines that the U.S. government should cover 75%-100% of the cost of responding to a "Severe Marine Debris Event"

Section 102

- Directs Congress to support research and development on materials and systems that reduce solid waste that enters the marine environment in an international setting
- Directs Congress to develop international agreements that focus on ameliorating waste management systems
- Calls for the U.S. Trade Representative to consider the impact of other countries' waste management systems in relevant future trade agreements

Appropriations

- Authorizes \$10,000,000 to be expended each year on the above programs for fiscal years 2018-2022
- Authorizes up to \$2,000,000 to be expended by the Coast Guard

Key actions

Mar. 3, 2017: Similar bill, S.756, introduced; referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation

Sept. 26, 2018: S.3508 introduced in Senate and passed without amendment by unanimous consent

Sept. 27, 2018: S.3508 passed in the House without objection, paving the way for its arrival on the president's desk