

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 9188

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize interagency agreements to expedite reviews of priority programs and projects of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2026

Ms. ELFRETH (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize interagency agreements to expedite reviews of priority programs and projects of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Readiness  
5 Permitting Efficiency Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS TO EXECUTE CERTAIN**  
2 **REVIEWS OF PRIORITY DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
3 **FENSE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.**

4 Chapter 159 of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended by inserting after section 2672 the following new  
6 section:

7 **“§ 2673. Interagency agreements to execute reviews**  
8 **of priority programs and projects**

9 “(a) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—(1) Subject to the  
10 requirements of paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense  
11 or the Secretary of a military department may enter into  
12 an agreement with the Director of the National Marine  
13 Fisheries Service or the Director of the United States Fish  
14 and Wildlife Service under which—

15 “(A) the Director agrees to execute a review  
16 process under a law specified in paragraph (2) for  
17 a priority military program or project, as designated  
18 by the Secretary; and

19 “(B) the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary  
20 of a military department agrees to provide to the Di-  
21 rector direct financial assistance in such amounts as  
22 may be necessary to hire personnel to execute the re-  
23 view process, provided such amounts are used only  
24 for such purpose.

25 “(2) The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of  
26 a military department may enter into an agreement under

1 this subsection with respect to a program or project only  
2 if—

3           “(A) the Secretary determines that it is in the  
4 interest of national defense to carry out a review  
5 process for the program or project within a par-  
6 ticular period of time; and

7           “(B) the Director of the National Marine Fish-  
8 eries Service or the Director of the United States  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service provides notice to the Sec-  
10 retary that the National Marine Fisheries Service or  
11 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as the  
12 case may be, does not have sufficient funds or ade-  
13 quate personnel to carry out the review process with-  
14 in such period without the receipt of assistance  
15 under the agreement.

16           “(3) The laws specified in this paragraph are each  
17 of the following:

18           “(A) The Marine Mammal Protection Act of  
19 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

20           “(B) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
21 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

22           “(C) The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-  
23 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

24           “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) The term ‘eligible expense’, with respect to  
2 a review process, includes an expense for—

3           “(A) support of or participation in military  
4 planning activities that precede the initiation of  
5 the review process;

6           “(B) activities directly related to the re-  
7 view process, including any associated consulta-  
8 tion process; and

9           “(C) development of programmatic agree-  
10 ments.

11           “(2) The term ‘review process’, with respect to  
12 a law, means the process of reviewing the potential  
13 environmental impacts of a program or project to  
14 determine whether the program or project meets the  
15 requirements of the law, including any requirement  
16 for a consultation, plan, permit, or approval.”.

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