

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9590

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on alternative habitat for certain manatees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 2, 2026

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida (for himself and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on alternative habitat for certain manatees, 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 “Study and Assessment
5 of Future Ecosystems for Manatees Act” or the “SAFE
6 for Manatees Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON ALTERNATIVE HABITAT FOR CERTAIN**
2 **MANATEES.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on
4 locations that could function as habitat for manatees that
5 are currently utilizing areas in Florida around coastal in-
6 dustrial sites subject to decommissioning actions that will
7 affect water temperatures in such areas.

8 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under
9 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

10 (1) identify and assess locations that could
11 function as habitat for manatees described in sub-
12 section (a), including—

13 (A) locations of natural warm water not
14 currently used by manatees; and

15 (B) locations where artificial warm water
16 refugia for manatees could be constructed; and

17 (2) develop, in consultation with the Secretary
18 of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers,
19 potential methods to create artificial warm water
20 refugia for manatees described in subsection (a) and
21 plans for the construction of such refugia.

22 (c) COORDINATION.—In conducting the study under
23 subsection (a), the Secretary shall coordinate with the
24 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

25 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
26 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make

1 publicly available a report on the results of the study con-
2 ducted under subsection (a).

3 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) MANATEE.—The term “manatee” means a
5 member of the species *Trichechus manatus*.

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
8 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
9 ice.

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