

(Added Pub. L. 98-525, title XV, § 1532(a)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2631.)

SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 98-525, title XV, § 1532(b), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2631, provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this chapter] shall not affect rights that vested before the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 19, 1984]."

CHAPTER 665—NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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§ 7901. National Oceanographic Partnership Program

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Navy shall establish a program to be known as the "National Oceanographic Partnership Program".

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the program are as follows:

(1) To promote the national goals of assuring national security, advancing economic development, protecting quality of life, and strengthening science education and communication through improved knowledge of the ocean.

(2) To coordinate and strengthen oceanographic efforts in support of those goals by—

(A) identifying and carrying out partnerships among Federal agencies, academia, industry, and other members of the oceanographic scientific community in the areas of data, resources, education, and communication; and

(B) reporting annually to Congress on the program.

(Added Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title II, § 282(a)(1), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2470.)

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title II, § 281, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2469, provided that: "Congress finds the following:

"(1) The oceans and coastal areas of the United States are among the Nation's most valuable natural resources, making substantial contributions to economic growth, quality of life, and national security.

"(2) Oceans drive global and regional climate. Hence, they contain information affecting agriculture, fishing, and the prediction of severe weather.

"(3) Understanding of the oceans through basic and applied research is essential for using the oceans wisely and protecting their limited resources. Therefore, the United States should maintain its world leadership in oceanography as one key to its competitive future.

"(4) Ocean research and education activities take place within Federal agencies, academic institutions, and industry. These entities often have similar requirements for research facilities, data, and other resources (such as oceanographic research vessels).

"(5) The need exists for a formal mechanism to coordinate existing partnerships and establish new partnerships for the sharing of resources, intellectual talent, and facilities in the ocean sciences and education, so that optimal use can be made of this most important natural resource for the well-being of all Americans."

§ 7902. National Ocean Research Leadership Council

(a) **COUNCIL.**—There is a National Ocean Research Leadership Council (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "Council").

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Council is composed of the following members:

(1) The Secretary of the Navy.

(2) The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) The Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(5) The Deputy Secretary of Energy.

(6) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(8) The Director of the United States Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior.

(9) The Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

(10) The Director of the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior.

(11) The Director of the Office of Science and Technology.

(12) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(13) The Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security.

(14) Other Federal officials the Council considers appropriate.

(c) **CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the chairman and vice chairman of the Council shall be appointed every two years by a selection committee of the Council composed of, at a minimum, the Secretary of the Navy, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the National Science Foundation. The term of office of the chairman and vice chairman shall be two years. A person who has previously served as chairman or vice chairman may be reappointed.

(2) The first chairman of the Council shall be the Secretary of the Navy. The first vice chairman of the Council shall be the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(d) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Council shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) To prescribe policies and procedures to implement the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

(2) To review, select, and identify and allocate funds for partnership projects for implementation under the program, based on the following criteria:

(A) Whether the project addresses critical research objectives or operational goals, such as data accessibility and quality assurance, sharing of resources, education, or communication.

(B) Whether the project has, or is designed to have, broad participation within the oceanographic community.

(C) Whether the partners have a long-term commitment to the objectives of the project.