

AMERICAN PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OCEANIC HABITATION ACT

Complementary federal bill to the American Productive Capacity Authority Act
Drafted 2026-06-26

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

119th Congress, 2nd Session

2026

H.R. ____

S. ____

BY _____ (Introduced by request)

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE DIRECTION OF AMERICAN PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY TO BUILD A FACTORY DEDICATED TO OCEANIC LIVING SYSTEMS, COMPRISING HOUSING, RECREATION, SAFETY AND LIFE SUPPORT, AND MANAGEMENT, TO BRING HUMAN OCEANIC HABITATION TO MARKET AT A FAIR MODERN PRICE, IN COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AUTHORITIES, AS THE FILLING OF AN EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL MARKET GAP AND WITHOUT COMPETITION WITH THE HUMAN MARKET IN LAND-FARING DWELLINGS.

LONG TITLE

AN ACT to direct the American Productive Capacity Authority to build and operate a factory dedicated to oceanic living systems for human habitation on and under the sea, comprising housing, recreation, safety and life-support, and management systems; to bring human oceanic habitation capability to market at a fair modern price; to authorize the Federal Authority to act in coordination with State-level Productive Capacity Authorities; to declare the mission an emergency environmental market gap that no private firm has filled at scale and to draw it so that it does not compete with the human market in land-faring dwellings; to require that the mission advance the exploration of the ocean and that the scientific and medical discoveries it enables flow to public benefit; to require environmental stewardship of the marine ecosystem and compliance with the law of the sea; and to provide effective dates.

LEGISLATIVE ROUTING NOTE

FILING PROCEDURE: This Act shall be filed with companion bills in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate and referred to the appropriate standing committees.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:

House of Representatives:

- Committee on Natural Resources (ocean, submerged lands, outer continental shelf)
- Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (NOAA, ocean exploration)
- Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Coast Guard, maritime safety)

Senate:

- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

FISCAL IMPACT: The Congressional Budget Office shall prepare a fiscal impact statement pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 602. The construction labor is supplied by the Authority's self-replicating robotic capacity; deployment is at a fair modern price to market designed to recover cost and sustain the factory.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (commerce among the several States and with foreign nations, including maritime commerce), Clause 18 (necessary and proper), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the power over federal property, including submerged lands and the outer continental shelf), exercised consistent with the law of the sea.

LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

(I) WE LIVE ON A WATER PLANET WE CANNOT LIVE ON. The Congress finds that the ocean covers more than seventy percent of the Earth, that it is the largest living system on the planet, that humanity has explored only a small fraction of it, and that humanity has almost no capacity to live on or under it. This is not a luxury gap. It is an environmental and civilizational gap, and it is an emergency the private market has not filled.

(II) THE SEA HAS ALREADY LENGTHENED OUR LIVES. The Congress finds that the ocean has already given humanity medicine that lengthens and improves human life, from the blue blood of the horseshoe crab that confirms the sterility of every vaccine and injectable drug, to the anticancer agent cytarabine drawn from a marine sponge, to the pain medicine ziconotide drawn from a marine cone snail, and that the vast majority of the ocean that would yield more such medicine has never been examined. To build the capacity to live in the ocean is to build the capacity to learn from it.

(III) THIS DOES NOT COMPETE WITH THE HUMAN BUILDER. The Congress finds and declares that the human market in land-faring dwellings is healthy, and that this mission does not enter it. The Authority builds for the sea, where no private firm builds at scale, and it builds there precisely because the gap is unserved. The mission is the filling of an emergency gap, not competition with a working market.

SECTION 1. Legislative findings.

(1) **THE OCEAN IS NEARLY UNKNOWN.** The ocean covers more than seventy percent of the Earth's surface and is the largest ecosystem on the planet. Only a small fraction has been explored in detail, more than eighty percent is unmapped and unobserved, and recent study estimates that far less than one percent of the deep seafloor has ever been directly seen. Humanity cannot steward what it has not explored, and it cannot explore at scale what it cannot inhabit.

(2) **THE SEA HAS ALREADY EXTENDED HUMAN LIFE.** Marine-derived medicines, including the horseshoe crab blue blood whose LAL test confirms the sterility of every injectable drug and vaccine, cytarabine and vidarabine from the marine-sponge line of research, ziconotide from a marine cone snail, and eribulin and trabectedin from marine natural products, have already lengthened and improved human life. The catalog is young, and the ocean that would extend it is almost entirely unexamined.

(2a) **THE FEDERAL ENTERPRISE PRECEDENT.** The United States has chartered federal enterprises that produce a good and sell it to the public at a set, fair price since the founding. The Post Office sells the stamp, and the Second Bank of the United States (1816 to 1836) was a federally chartered corporation with public duties operating in the open market. A federal enterprise that builds oceanic dwellings and sells them at a fair price stands in that settled American lineage.

(3) **THE MARKET GAP IS REAL AND UNSERVED.** No private firm has brought human oceanic habitation to market at scale. The capital, the continuity, and the manufacturing depth required have exceeded the private market's reach. The Authority's self-replicating productive capacity is the instrument that can fill the gap.

(4) THE NON-COMPETITION FINDING. The human market in land-faring dwellings is healthy and is not entered by this Act. The mission is confined to the sea, an emergency environmental gap the private market has not filled.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

(a) "AUTHORITY" means the American Productive Capacity Authority.

(b) "OCEANIC LIVING SYSTEMS" means the housing, recreation, safety and life-support, and management systems required for human habitation on or under the sea.

(c) "STATE AUTHORITY" means a State-level Productive Capacity Authority.

TITLE I. THE OCEANIC LIVING SYSTEMS FACTORY.

SECTION 3. Establishment.

The Authority shall direct its self-replicating closed-loop manufacturing capacity to build and operate a factory dedicated to oceanic living systems, producing housing, recreation, safety and life-support, and management systems for human habitation on and under the sea.

SECTION 4. Coordination with State Authorities.

The Authority may act in coordination with State-level Productive Capacity Authorities in the siting, manufacture, and deployment of oceanic living systems, and a State Authority may distribute oceanic living systems within and adjacent to its waters in coordination with the Federal Authority.

TITLE II. DEPLOYMENT TO MARKET.

SECTION 5. Fair modern price.

The Authority shall bring oceanic living systems to market at a fair modern price designed to make the capability broadly available, to recover the cost of the factory, and to sustain continued production, and not to undercut or displace any working human market.

SECTION 6. Non-competition with land-faring dwellings.

Nothing in this Act authorizes the Authority to manufacture or market land-faring dwellings in competition with the human market. The Authority's housing mission under this Act is confined to oceanic living systems for habitation on or under the sea.

TITLE III. EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY, AND STEWARDSHIP.

SECTION 7. Advancement of exploration.

The mission shall advance the human exploration of the ocean, and the Authority shall coordinate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration so that habitation capability serves mapping, observation, and scientific study of the sea.

SECTION 8. Discoveries to public benefit.

The scientific and medical discoveries enabled by the mission, including any marine-derived discovery of benefit to human health, shall be administered for public benefit on terms set by the Congress, consistent with the abundance purpose of the American Productive Capacity Authority Act.

SECTION 9. Environmental stewardship and the law of the sea.

(a) STEWARDSHIP. The mission shall be conducted so as to protect the marine ecosystem, under the oversight of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, and no oceanic living system shall be deployed that the responsible authorities determine would cause net harm to the marine environment.

(b) LAW OF THE SEA. The mission shall be conducted consistent with United States maritime jurisdiction over its submerged lands and outer continental shelf and consistent with the law of the sea.

SECTION 10. Effective dates.

(a) The factory authorization under Title I shall begin on the date the Authority reaches the self-replicating manufacturing capacity contemplated by Title III and Title V of the American Productive Capacity Authority Act.

(b) Deployment to market under Title II shall begin upon the certification by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coast Guard that the first oceanic living systems meet safety and environmental standards.

(c) REVIEW. The Authority shall report to the Congress on the oceanic habitation mission every two years, including the state of ocean exploration the mission has enabled.

END OF ACT