

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7918
OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sea Turtle Rescue As-
3 sistance Act of 2022”.

**4 SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE ASSISTANCE GRANT PRO-
5 GRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
7 a grant program to be known as the “Sea Turtle Rescue
8 Assistance Grant Program”, to encourage and facilitate
9 coordinated rapid response and rescue by awarding grants
10 for the purposes described in subsection (c).

11 (b) DESIGNATION OF STRANDING REGIONS.—The
12 Secretary shall designate geographic regions of the United
13 States as stranding regions for the purposes of carrying
14 out this section.

15 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are to
16 provide for—

1 (1) the recovery, short- or long-term care,
2 transportation, and treatment of stranded marine
3 turtles;

4 (2) the release of rescued and recovered marine
5 turtles;

6 (3) the collection of data and samples from
7 stranded marine turtles for scientific research or as-
8 sessments regarding marine turtle health, including
9 tagging information; and

10 (4) facility operation costs that are directly re-
11 lated to activities described in paragraphs (1), (2),
12 and (3).

13 (d) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—The
14 Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that
15 funds awarded under this section are distributed equitably
16 among stranding regions, taking into account—

17 (1) the number of stranding events that oc-
18 curred in each stranding region in the preceding 5
19 years; and

20 (2) the conservation priorities and recovery
21 needs of species of marine turtles that are threat-
22 ened or endangered under the Endangered Species
23 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

1 (e) APPLICATION.—An applicant for a grant under
2 this section shall submit an application in such form and
3 manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

4 (f) GRANT CRITERIA.—

5 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA.—The Sec-
6 retary shall, in consultation with the Director of the
7 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, establish by
8 regulation appropriate criteria for awarding grants
9 under this section.

10 (2) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—As part of
11 the process for developing and finalizing criteria
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, in con-
13 sultation with the Director of the United States Fish
14 and Wildlife Service, provide opportunities for en-
15 gagement with representatives from stranding re-
16 gions and representatives of public and private orga-
17 nizations with an established record in rescue, reha-
18 bilitation, and release, as well as related scientific re-
19 search, marine conservation, and forensic science,
20 with respect to stranded marine turtles.

21 (3) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The criteria devel-
22 oped under paragraph (1) shall prioritize applicants
23 with an established record of rescuing, rehabilita-
24 tion, scientific research, and forensic science with re-
25 spect to stranded marine turtles or conducting sci-

1 entific research and forensic science on stranded ma-
2 rine turtles.

3 (g) LIMITATIONS.—

4 (1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—No grant
5 awarded under this section may exceed \$150,000 in
6 any 12-month period.

7 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The non-Fed-
8 eral share of the costs of an activity conducted with
9 a grant awarded under the Program shall be not less
10 than 50 percent of such costs, including in-kind
11 services and the use of property.

12 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
14 out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
15 through 2028 to remain available until expended. Not
16 more than 3 percent shall be used for administrative ex-
17 penses to carry out this Act.

18 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) MARINE TURTLE.—The term “marine tur-
20 tle” means any member of the family Cheloniidae or
21 Dermochelyidae.

22 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
23 the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program
24 established under subsection (a).

1 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

3 (4) STRANDING.—The term “stranding” means
4 an event in which—

5 (A) a marine turtle is dead and is—

6 (i) on a beach or shore of the United
7 States; or

8 (ii) in waters under the jurisdiction of
9 the United States (including any navigable
10 waters); or

11 (B) a marine turtle is alive and is—

12 (i) on a beach or shore of the United
13 States and unable to return to the water;

14 (ii) on a beach or shore of the United
15 States and in need of medical attention; or

16 (iii) in the waters under the jurisdic-
17 tion of the United States (including any
18 navigable waters), and in need of medical
19 attention or other necessary intervention to
20 aid its likelihood of survival.

21 (5) STRANDING REGION.—The term “stranding
22 region” means a geographic region designated by the
23 Secretary under subsection (b).

