

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9165

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to allocate resources for remote search and rescue activities conducted on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to allocate resources for remote search and rescue activities conducted on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, 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 “Public Land Search  
5 and Rescue Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR REMOTE SEARCH AND RES-**  
2 **CUE ACTIVITIES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
5 tablish a program to provide grants to allocate resources  
6 for remote search and rescue activities conducted on Fed-  
7 eral land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the  
8 Secretary of Agriculture.

9 (b) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible for a grant under  
10 the Program, an eligible recipient shall submit to the Sec-  
11 retary an application in such form, at such time, and con-  
12 taining such information as the Secretary determines to  
13 be appropriate.

14 (c) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall prioritize appli-  
15 cations from eligible recipients that serve an area with a  
16 high ratio of visitors to residents.

17 (d) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost  
18 of an eligible purpose funded under the Program shall not  
19 exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the eligible purpose,  
20 as determined by the Secretary.

21 (e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

22 (1) **ELIGIBLE PURPOSE.**—The term “eligible  
23 purpose” means—

24 (A) the purchase of equipment and gear  
25 necessary for remote search and rescue activi-  
26 ties;

1 (B) the cost of maintenance and repair of  
2 remote search and rescue equipment owned or  
3 leased by an eligible recipient; and

4 (C) reimbursement to an eligible recipient  
5 for remote search and rescue activities con-  
6 ducted on Federal land under the jurisdiction of  
7 the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible  
9 recipient” means a State, political subdivision there-  
10 of, or their designee, that is—

11 (A) authorized by State or Federal law to  
12 conduct remote search and rescue activities;  
13 and

14 (B) determined by the Secretary to have  
15 the capability to carry out a project described  
16 in subsection (d).

17 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
18 the program established under subsection (a).

19 (4) REMOTE SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITY.—  
20 The term “remote search and rescue activity” means  
21 an activity that uses, trains, or supports responders  
22 with specialized equipment to—

23 (A) locate and recover the remains of de-  
24 ceased individuals in remote areas; and

1           (B) locate, provide assistance to, and re-  
2           move to safety individuals who are lost, injured,  
3           stranded, or entrapped in remote areas.

4           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
5           the Secretary of the Interior.

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