

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 944

To reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. JOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Estuary Program, 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. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

4 Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
5 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts
9 made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the

1 Administrator shall make competitive awards
2 under this paragraph.

3 “(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The
4 Administrator shall solicit applications for
5 awards under this paragraph from State, inter-
6 state, and regional water pollution control agen-
7 cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-
8 ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public
9 or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-
10 nizations, and individuals.

11 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—In se-
12 lecting award recipients under this paragraph,
13 the Administrator shall select recipients that
14 are best able to address urgent and challenging
15 issues that threaten the ecological and economic
16 well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall in-
17 clude—

18 “(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses
19 resulting in significant impacts on fisheries
20 and water quality;

21 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

22 “(iii) unusual marine mammal mor-
23 talities;

1 “(iv) invasive exotic species that may
2 threaten wastewater systems and cause
3 other damage;

4 “(v) jellyfish proliferation limiting
5 community access to water during peak
6 tourism seasons;

7 “(vi) flooding that may be related to
8 sea level rise or wetland degradation or
9 loss; and

10 “(vii) low dissolved oxygen conditions
11 in estuarine waters and related nutrient
12 management.”.

13 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
15 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection
16 (i) and inserting the following:

17 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
19 appropriated to the Administrator \$27,000,000 for
20 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for—

21 “(A) expenses relating to the administra-
22 tion of grants or awards by the Administrator
23 under this section, including the award and
24 oversight of grants and awards, except that
25 such expenses may not exceed 5 percent of the

1 amount appropriated under this subsection for
2 a fiscal year; and

3 “(B) making grants and awards under
4 subsection (g).

5 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

6 “(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
7 PLANS.—Not less than 80 percent of the
8 amount made available under this subsection
9 for a fiscal year shall be used by the Adminis-
10 trator for the development, implementation, and
11 monitoring of each of the conservation and
12 management plans eligible for grant assistance
13 under subsection (g)(2).

14 “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Not less
15 than 15 percent of the amount made available
16 under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be
17 used by the Administrator for making competi-
18 tive awards described in subsection (g)(4).”.

○