

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 882

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YARMUTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “No Child Left Inside Act of 2015”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

- Sec. 101. Environmental literacy.
- Sec. 102. Conforming amendments.

TITLE II—PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY IN
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Amendments to part B of title II.
- Sec. 202. Amendments to part B of title IV.

TITLE III—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 301. Availability of other environmental literacy information.
- Sec. 302. Federal interagency coordination on environmental literacy.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Children and young adults are increasingly
9 disconnected from the natural world around them,
10 spending less time outside playing, exploring, and
11 learning.

12 (2) Play and learning in nature is important to
13 the intellectual, social, and physical development of
14 youth.

15 (3) Environmental education, as part of the for-
16 mal prekindergarten through grade 12 school cur-
17 riculum, provides opportunities for youth to get out-

1 side and learn about the natural world, has positive
2 impacts on student achievement in all subjects and
3 especially in science, reading, mathematics, and so-
4 cial studies, and improves critical thinking skills, en-
5 thusiasm for learning, stewardship, and healthy life-
6 styles.

7 (4) By many indicators, the United States is
8 falling behind other nations in preparing students
9 with the educational tools necessary to compete for
10 the growing opportunities in the sciences, including
11 environmental, natural resource, and energy related
12 careers.

13 (5) Reports by boards of the National Science
14 Foundation, the National Environmental Education
15 Advisory Council, and the National Council for
16 Science and the Environment, among others, have
17 called for a systemic approach to environmental edu-
18 cation in the formal education system to improve the
19 environmental literacy of youth and better prepare
20 students for college and the 21st century workforce.

21 (6) Forty-eight States have developed, or are in
22 the process of developing, environmental literacy
23 plans to effectively integrate environmental edu-
24 cation into the prekindergarten through grade 12
25 curriculum and ensure that students graduate from

1 high school environmentally literate. At the same
2 time, most States are aligning curricula with the
3 Common Core State Standards.

4 (7) Support from the Department of Education
5 is needed to help State and local educational agen-
6 cies, and the partners of such agencies, implement
7 environmental literacy plans and advance State cur-
8 riculum frameworks for environmental and natural
9 resource education that meets new State academic
10 content and student achievement standards.

11 (8) Federal science and natural resource agen-
12 cies have important resources, including Federal
13 lands and laboratories, content experts, data, and
14 programs, that can inform and support State and
15 local environmental literacy policies and program-
16 ming.

17 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

18 Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in
19 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
20 of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other
21 provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to
22 a section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-
23 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

1 **TITLE I—ENVIRONMENTAL**
2 **LITERACY**

3 **SEC. 101. ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY.**

4 Part D of title V (20 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“Subpart 22—Environmental Literacy**

7 **“SEC. 5621. DEFINITIONS.**

8 “In this subpart:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
10 ble partnership’ means a partnership that includes a
11 local educational agency and not less than 1 of the
12 following partners:

13 “(A) A teacher preparation program at an
14 institution of higher education.

15 “(B) The environmental or life sciences de-
16 partment of an institution of higher education.

17 “(C) Another local educational agency, a
18 public charter school, a public elementary
19 school or secondary school, or a consortium of
20 such schools.

21 “(D) A Federal, State, regional, or local
22 environmental or natural resource management
23 agency, or parks and recreation department,
24 that has demonstrated effectiveness, expertise,
25 and experience in the field of environmental lit-

1 eracy, including the professional development of
2 teachers.

3 “(E) A nonprofit organization that has
4 demonstrated effectiveness, expertise, and expe-
5 rience in the field of environmental literacy, in-
6 cluding the professional development of teach-
7 ers.

8 “(2) ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY.—The term
9 ‘environmental literacy’ means a fundamental under-
10 standing of ecological principles, the systems of the
11 natural world, and the relationships and interactions
12 between natural and man-made environments.

13 “(3) ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN.—The
14 term ‘environmental literacy plan’ means a plan de-
15 veloped, approved, or sponsored by the State edu-
16 cational agency in consultation with State environ-
17 mental agencies, State environmental education as-
18 sociations, and State natural resource agencies, and
19 with input from the public, that—

20 “(A) prepares students to understand eco-
21 logical principles, the systems of the natural
22 world, and the relationships and interactions
23 between natural and man-made environments;

24 “(B) provides field and hands-on experi-
25 ences as part of the regular school curriculum

1 and creates programs that contribute to healthy
2 lifestyles through outdoor recreation and sound
3 nutrition;

4 “(C) provides environmental service learn-
5 ing opportunities;

6 “(D) provides targeted professional devel-
7 opment opportunities for teachers that improves
8 the teachers’—

9 “(i) environmental and natural re-
10 source content knowledge; and

11 “(ii) pedagogical skills in teaching
12 about the environment, including the use
13 of—

14 “(I) interdisciplinary, field-based,
15 and research-based learning; and

16 “(II) science, technology, engi-
17 neering, and mathematics content
18 knowledge and tools;

19 “(E) describes the measures the State will
20 use to assess the environmental literacy of stu-
21 dents, including—

22 “(i) relevant State academic content
23 standards and content areas regarding en-
24 vironmental education, and courses or sub-
25 jects where environmental education in-

1 instruction will be integrated throughout the
2 prekindergarten through grade 12 cur-
3 riculum; and

4 “(ii) a description of the relationship
5 of the plan to the secondary school gradua-
6 tion requirements of the State;

7 “(F) describes how the State educational
8 agency will implement the plan, in partnership
9 with nongovernmental organizations, Federal
10 agencies, State environmental agencies, State
11 environmental education associations, State
12 natural resource agencies, and local educational
13 agencies, including how the State educational
14 agency will secure funding and other necessary
15 support; and

16 “(G) is periodically updated by the State
17 educational agency not less often than every 5
18 years.

19 “(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
20 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
21 means a local educational agency—

22 “(A) for which not less than 20 percent of
23 the children served by the agency are children
24 from low-income families;

1 “(B) that serves not fewer than 10,000
2 children from low-income families;

3 “(C) that meets the eligibility requirements
4 for funding under section 6211(b); or

5 “(D) that meets the eligibility require-
6 ments for funding under section 6221(b).

7 **“SEC. 5622. GRANTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRON-
8 MENTAL LITERACY PLANS.**

9 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts ap-
10 propriated for this section, the Secretary shall award
11 grants to States to enable the States to award subgrants,
12 on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to support
13 the implementation of the State environmental literacy
14 plan.

15 “(b) APPLICATION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that desires a
17 grant under this section shall submit an application
18 to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and
19 containing such information as the Secretary may
20 require.

21 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application under this
22 subsection shall—

23 “(A) include the State’s environmental lit-
24 eracy plan and information on the status of im-
25 plementation of such plan;

1 “(B) describe how funds received under
2 this subsection will assist the State in fur-
3 thering the implementation of the State’s envi-
4 ronmental literacy plan;

5 “(C) describe the process the State will use
6 to make subgrants to eligible partnerships; and

7 “(D) describe the process the State will
8 use to evaluate the impact of the activities as-
9 sisted under this subpart.

10 “(c) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

11 “(1) establish a peer review process to assist in
12 the review of grant applications under this section;

13 “(2) appoint individuals to the peer review
14 process who—

15 “(A) are representative of parents, teach-
16 ers, State educational agencies, State environ-
17 mental agencies, State natural resource agen-
18 cies, local educational agencies, and nongovern-
19 mental organizations; and

20 “(B) are familiar with national environ-
21 mental issues and the health and educational
22 needs of students; and

23 “(3) include, in the peer review process, appro-
24 priate representatives from the Department of Com-
25 merce, the Department of the Interior, the Depart-

1 ment of Energy, the Environmental Protection
2 Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to
3 provide environmental expertise and background for
4 evaluation of the State environmental literacy plan.

5 “(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A State receiv-
6 ing a grant under this section may use not more than 2.5
7 percent of the grant funds for administrative expenses.

8 “(e) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State receiving a
10 grant under this subpart shall prepare and submit
11 an annual report to the Secretary containing infor-
12 mation about—

13 “(A) the implementation of the environ-
14 mental literacy plan; and

15 “(B) the grant activities supported under
16 this subpart.

17 “(2) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report re-
18 quired by this section shall be—

19 “(A) in the form specified by the Sec-
20 retary;

21 “(B) based on the State’s ongoing evalua-
22 tion activities; and

23 “(C) made readily available to the public.

24 “(f) SUBGRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

1 “(1) SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE PARTNER-
2 SHIPS.—From amounts made available to a State
3 educational agency under subsection (a), the State
4 educational agency shall award subgrants, on a com-
5 petitive basis, to eligible partnerships serving the
6 State, to enable the eligible partnerships to carry out
7 the authorized activities described in subsection (h).

8 “(2) DURATION.—The State educational agency
9 shall award each subgrant under this section for a
10 period of not more than 3 years.

11 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making subgrants under
12 this section, a State shall give priority to eligible
13 partnerships that include a high-need local edu-
14 cational agency.

15 “(4) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
16 provided to an eligible partnership under this section
17 shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds
18 that would otherwise be used for activities author-
19 ized under this section.

20 “(g) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible partnership
22 desiring a subgrant under this section shall submit
23 an application to the State educational agency, at
24 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by

1 such information as the State educational agency
2 may require.

3 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
4 under paragraph (1) shall include—

5 “(A) a description of teacher professional
6 development needs, with respect to the teaching
7 and learning of environmental content;

8 “(B) an explanation of how the activities
9 to be carried out by the eligible partnership are
10 expected to improve student academic achieve-
11 ment and strengthen the quality of environ-
12 mental instruction;

13 “(C) a description of how the activities to
14 be carried out by the eligible partnership—

15 “(i) will be aligned with challenging
16 State academic content standards and stu-
17 dent academic achievement standards
18 under section 1111(b)(1) in environmental
19 education, to the extent such standards
20 exist, and with the State’s environmental
21 literacy plan; and

22 “(ii) will advance the teaching of
23 interdisciplinary courses that integrate the
24 study of natural, social, and economic sys-
25 tems and that include strong field compo-

1 nents in which students have the oppor-
2 tunity to directly experience nature
3 through outdoor environmental learning;

4 “(D) a description of how the activities to
5 be carried out by the eligible partnership will
6 ensure that teachers are trained in the use of
7 field-based or service learning to enable the
8 teachers—

9 “(i) to use the local environment and
10 community as a resource; and

11 “(ii) to improve student under-
12 standing of the environment and increase
13 academic achievement;

14 “(E) a description of—

15 “(i) how the eligible partnership will
16 carry out the authorized activities de-
17 scribed in subsection (h); and

18 “(ii) the eligible partnership’s evalua-
19 tion and accountability plan described in
20 subsection (i); and

21 “(F) a description of how the eligible part-
22 nership will continue the activities funded under
23 this section after the grant period has expired.

24 “(h) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible partner-
25 ship shall use the subgrant funds provided under this sec-

1 tion for 1 or more of the following activities related to
2 elementary schools or secondary schools:

3 “(1) Providing targeted, job-embedded profes-
4 sional development opportunities for teachers that
5 improve the teachers’ environmental content knowl-
6 edge and pedagogical skills in teaching about the en-
7 vironment, including in the use of—

8 “(A) interdisciplinary, research-based, and
9 field-based learning; and

10 “(B) technology in the classroom.

11 “(2) Establishing and operating environmental
12 education summer workshops or institutes, including
13 follow-up professional development, for elementary
14 and secondary school teachers, and preschool teach-
15 ers, as appropriate, to improve pedagogical skills
16 and content knowledge for the teaching of environ-
17 mental education.

18 “(3) Developing or redesigning more rigorous
19 environmental education curricula that—

20 “(A) are aligned with challenging State
21 academic content standards in environmental
22 education, to the extent such standards exist,
23 and with the State environmental literacy plan;
24 and

1 “(B) advance the teaching of interdiscipli-
2 nary courses that integrate the study of nat-
3 ural, social, and economic systems and that in-
4 clude strong field components.

5 “(4) Designing programs to prepare teachers at
6 a school to provide mentoring and professional devel-
7 opment to other teachers at such school to improve
8 teacher environmental education content knowledge
9 and pedagogical skills.

10 “(5) Establishing and operating programs to
11 bring teachers and students into contact with work-
12 ing professionals in environmental fields to deepen
13 such teachers’ knowledge of environmental content
14 and research practices.

15 “(6) Creating initiatives that seek to incor-
16 porate environmental education within teacher train-
17 ing programs or accreditation standards consistent
18 with the State environmental literacy plan.

19 “(7) Promoting the integration of outdoor envi-
20 ronmental education lessons into the regular school
21 curriculum and schedule in order to further the
22 knowledge and professional development of teachers
23 and help students directly experience nature.

24 “(i) EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.—

1 “(2) to disseminate information about best
2 practices and resources available to support environ-
3 mental literacy programs.

4 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
6 to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
7 partnerships to enable the eligible partnerships to
8 pay the Federal share of the costs of activities under
9 this section.

10 “(2) DURATION.—Each grant under this sec-
11 tion shall be for a period of not less than 1 year and
12 not more than 3 years.

13 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
14 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
15 partnerships that include a high-need local edu-
16 cational agency.

17 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—Each eligible partnership desir-
18 ing a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
19 retary an application that contains—

20 “(1) a plan to initiate, expand, or improve envi-
21 ronmental education programs in order to make
22 progress toward—

23 “(A) challenging State academic content
24 standards and student academic achievement

1 standards in environmental education, to the
2 extent such standards exist; and

3 “(B) meeting academic standards that are
4 aligned with the State’s environmental literacy
5 plan; and

6 “(2) an evaluation and accountability plan for
7 activities assisted under this section that includes
8 rigorous objectives that measure the impact of ac-
9 tivities funded under this section.

10 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds made available
11 under this section shall be used for 1 or more of the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(1) Developing and implementing State cur-
14 riculum frameworks for environmental education
15 that meet—

16 “(A) challenging State academic content
17 standards and student academic achievement
18 standards for environmental education, to the
19 extent such standards exist; and

20 “(B) academic standards that are aligned
21 with the State’s environmental literacy plan
22 under section 5622.

23 “(2) Replicating or disseminating information
24 about proven and tested model environmental edu-
25 cation programs that—

1 “(A) use the environment as an integrating
2 theme or content throughout the curriculum; or

3 “(B) provide integrated, interdisciplinary
4 instruction about natural, social, and economic
5 systems along with field experience that pro-
6 vides students with opportunities to directly ex-
7 perience nature in ways designed to improve
8 students’ overall academic performance, per-
9 sonal health (including addressing child obesity
10 issues), and understanding of nature.

11 “(3) Developing and implementing new ap-
12 proaches to advancing environmental education, and
13 to advancing the adoption and use of environmental
14 education content standards, at the State and local
15 levels.

16 “(e) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP REPORT.—In order to
17 continue receiving grant funds under this section after the
18 first year of a multiyear grant under this section, the eligi-
19 ble partnership shall submit to the Secretary an annual
20 report that—

21 “(1) describes the activities assisted under this
22 section that were conducted during the preceding
23 year;

24 “(2) demonstrates that progress has been made
25 in helping schools to meet the State academic stand-

1 ards for environmental education described in sub-
2 section (d)(3); and

3 “(3) describes the results of the eligible part-
4 nership’s evaluation and accountability plan.

5 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

6 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a
7 grant under this section shall not exceed—

8 “(A) 90 percent of the total costs of the
9 activities assisted under the grant for the first
10 year for which the program receives assistance
11 under this section; and

12 “(B) 75 percent of such costs for each of
13 the second and third years.

14 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
15 than 7.5 percent of the grant funds made available
16 to an eligible partnership under this section for any
17 fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses.

18 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts made
19 available to the Secretary to carry out this section
20 shall remain available until expended.

21 “(g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
22 available under this section shall be used to supplement,
23 and not supplant, any other Federal, State, or local funds
24 available for environmental education activities.

1 **“SEC. 5624. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
3 of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2015 and every 2 years
4 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress
5 that—

6 “(1) describes the programs assisted under this
7 subpart;

8 “(2) documents the success of such programs in
9 improving national and State environmental edu-
10 cation capacity; and

11 “(3) makes such recommendations as the Sec-
12 retary determines appropriate for the continuation
13 and improvement of the programs assisted under
14 this subpart.

15 **“SEC. 5625. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be
17 appropriated to carry out this subpart such sums as may
18 be necessary for fiscal year 2016 and each of the 4 suc-
19 ceeding fiscal years.

20 “(b) DISTRIBUTION.—With respect to any amount
21 appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the
22 Secretary shall use—

23 “(1) not less than 70 percent of such amount
24 to carry out section 5622; and

25 “(2) not more than 30 percent of such amount
26 to carry out section 5623 for such fiscal year.”.

1 **SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section
 3 5401 (20 U.S.C. 7241) is amended, in the matter pre-
 4 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “(except for subpart
 5 22)” after “this part”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in
 7 section 2 is amended by inserting after the item relating
 8 to section 5618 the following:

“SUBPART 22—ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

“Sec. 5621. Definitions.

“Sec. 5622. Grants for implementation of environmental literacy plans.

“Sec. 5623. Environmental education grant program to help build national ca-
 pacity.

“Sec. 5624. Report to Congress.

“Sec. 5625. Authorization of appropriations.”.

9 **TITLE II—PROMOTING ENVIRON-**
 10 **MENTAL LITERACY IN EDU-**
 11 **CATION PROGRAMS**

12 **SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO PART B OF TITLE II.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 2201(b)(1)(B) (20
 14 U.S.C. 6661(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

15 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or”;

16 (2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the
 17 end and inserting “; or”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(v) a Federal, State, regional, or
 20 local science, environmental, or natural re-
 21 source management agency or a nonprofit
 22 environmental education organization that

1 has demonstrated effectiveness in improv-
2 ing the quality of mathematics and science
3 instruction.”.

4 (b) GRANTS.—Section 2202 (20 U.S.C. 6662) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by inserting “, in-
7 cluding any State environmental literacy plan de-
8 scribed in section 5621,” after “reform activities”;
9 and

10 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(11) Professional development in the use of
13 field-based or service learning to enable teachers—

14 “(A) to use the local environment and
15 community as a resource; and

16 “(B) to enhance student understanding of
17 mathematics and science through environmental
18 education.”.

19 **SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS TO PART B OF TITLE IV.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4201(b)(1)(A) (20
21 U.S.C. 7171(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “environ-
22 mental literacy,” after “technology,”.

23 (b) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 4205(a) (20 U.S.C.
24 7175(a)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
2 (12) as paragraphs (5) through (13), respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(4) environmental literacy activities;”.

7 **TITLE III—NATIONAL**
8 **ACTIVITIES**

9 **SEC. 301. AVAILABILITY OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LIT-**
10 **ERACY INFORMATION.**

11 (a) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL LIT-**
12 **ERACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of Edu-
13 cation shall request that all Federal agencies provide in-
14 formation on any environmental literacy assistance pro-
15 gram operated, sponsored, or supported by such Federal
16 agency, including information about the application proce-
17 dures, financial terms and conditions, and other relevant
18 information for each program, and each Federal agency
19 shall promptly respond to surveys or other requests from
20 the Secretary of Education for the information described
21 in this subsection.

22 (b) **PUBLIC INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Edu-
23 cation shall ensure that not later than 90 days after the
24 Secretary of Education receives the information required
25 under subsection (a), the eligibility requirements, applica-

1 tion procedures, financial terms and conditions, and other
2 relevant information for each environmental literacy as-
3 sistance program offered by another Federal agency are
4 searchable and accessible through the Department of Edu-
5 cation's website and cross-referenced with the United
6 States Green Ribbon School application information, in a
7 manner that is simple and understandable for local edu-
8 cational agencies and communities.

9 **SEC. 302. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ON EN-**
10 **VIRONMENTAL LITERACY.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
12 coordinate environmental literacy activities between the
13 Department of Education, the Environmental Protection
14 Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Depart-
15 ment of Commerce, including by carrying out the activities
16 described in subsection (b).

17 (b) COORDINATION ACTIVITIES.—In coordinating en-
18 vironmental literacy activities, the Secretary of Education
19 shall—

20 (1) assess current Federal environmental edu-
21 cation programs, goals, and budget items across
22 agencies;

23 (2) assess environment-based science, tech-
24 nology, engineering, and mathematics achievement
25 to demonstrate that learning about and in the envi-

1 ronment is an effective strategy for increasing en-
2 gagement in learning and academic achievement in
3 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
4 subject areas; and

5 (3) produce adaptable environmental literacy
6 plan guidelines and identify coordinated resources
7 across Federal agencies that States and local edu-
8 cational agencies can follow as States and local edu-
9 cational agencies work to develop environmental lit-
10 eracy plans and programs of their own.

11 (c) ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary of Education
12 shall appoint an advisory panel of stakeholders, including
13 representatives from State educational agencies, local edu-
14 cational agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations
15 that are engaged in local environmental literacy efforts
16 representing the geographic, economic, and cultural diver-
17 sity of the United States, who shall meet quarterly to ad-
18 vise and support interagency planning and assessment re-
19 garding environmental literacy activities.

20 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
22 thereafter, the Secretary of Education, the Administrator
23 of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of
24 the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce shall prepare
25 and submit a joint report to Congress containing informa-

1 tion about the coordination of environmental literacy ac-
2 tivities between Federal agencies.

○