

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1523

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2015

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act 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. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZA-**
4 **TION; COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

5 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
6 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts
2 made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the
3 Administrator shall make competitive awards
4 under this paragraph.

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

13 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—The
14 Administrator shall select award recipients
15 under this paragraph that, as determined by
16 the Administrator, are best able to address ur-
17 gent and challenging issues that threaten the
18 ecological and economic well-being of coastal
19 areas, including—

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

23 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

24 “(iii) unusual marine mammal mor-
25 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.”; and

13 (2) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

19 “(A) making grants and awards under
20 subsection (g); and

21 “(B) 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, subject to the
25 condition that such expenses may not exceed 5

1 percent of the amount appropriated under this
2 subsection for a fiscal year.

3 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

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

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

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