

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2971

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a youth biodiversity monitoring grant program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2025

Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a youth biodiversity monitoring grant program.

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 “Youth Outdoors Using
5 Nature’s Genetics Act of 2025” or the “YOUNG Act of
6 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. YOUTH BIODIVERSITY MONITORING GRANT PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination
10 with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, including the

1 Director of the United States Geological Survey and the
2 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
3 shall establish a grant program to award amounts and
4 provide technical assistance to covered entities to carry out
5 youth biodiversity monitoring projects that use and edu-
6 cate students about advanced technologies.

7 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
8 this section, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretary
9 an application in such form, at such time, and containing
10 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

11 (c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—A covered entity that is
12 awarded a grant under this section may use such grant
13 to carry out the following activities as part of a youth bio-
14 diversity monitoring project:

15 (1) The purchase of supplies.

16 (2) Transportation of participants to and from
17 a youth biodiversity monitoring project.

18 (3) Outreach with respect to a youth biodiver-
19 sity monitoring project to promote participation in
20 such project.

21 (4) The purchase of scientific collection licenses
22 and permits.

23 (5) Other expenses related to carrying out a
24 youth biodiversity monitoring project the Secretary
25 determines appropriate.

1 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
2 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from
3 covered entities that include a proposal for a youth bio-
4 diversity monitoring project focused on an underserved
5 community.

6 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
7 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall sub-
8 mit to Congress a report regarding the grant program,
9 including the following information:

10 (1) Each eligible entity awarded a grant under
11 this section.

12 (2) The amount awarded to each such eligible
13 entity.

14 (3) How each such eligible entity used such
15 grant.

16 (4) The number of participants in youth bio-
17 diversity monitoring projects carried out using
18 grants awarded under this section.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
21 out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
22 through 2032.

23 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.—The term
25 “advanced technologies” means—

1 (A) environmental DNA collection and
2 analysis procedures;

3 (B) remote sensing;

4 (C) drones;

5 (D) camera traps;

6 (E) acoustic monitoring;

7 (F) advanced sensors and sensor networks;

8 (G) AI, machine learning, or advanced
9 modeling; or

10 (H) any other technology or method the
11 Secretary determines appropriate.

12 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
13 tity” means—

14 (A) a nonprofit organization;

15 (B) an elementary school or secondary
16 school (as those terms are defined in section
17 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

19 (C) an institution of higher education (as
20 that term is defined in section 101 of the High-
21 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

22 (D) a State, local, or Tribal government.

23 (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
24 gram” means the grant program established pursu-
25 ant to subsection (a).

1 (4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
2 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
3 is—

4 (A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

6 (B) exempt from taxation under section
7 501(a) of that Code.

8 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the
10 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-
11 mosphere.

12 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means—

13 (A) each of the several States;

14 (B) the District of Columbia;

15 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

16 (D) American Samoa;

17 (E) Guam;

18 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
19 Mariana Islands;

20 (G) the Virgin Islands of the United
21 States; and

22 (H) any other territory or possession of the
23 United States.

24 (7) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
25 government” means the recognized governing body

1 of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation,
2 pueblo, village, community, component band, or com-
3 ponent reservation individually identified (including
4 parenthetically) in the list published pursuant to sec-
5 tion 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
6 List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

7 (8) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term
8 “underserved community” means a population of in-
9 dividuals sharing a particular characteristic, or a ge-
10 ographic community, that has been systematically
11 denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of
12 economic, social, or civic life, such as—

13 (A) racial and ethnic minorities;

14 (B) individuals with access and functional
15 needs; or

16 (C) individuals otherwise adversely affected
17 by persistent poverty or inequality.

18 (9) YOUTH BIODIVERSITY MONITORING
19 PROJECT.—The term “youth biodiversity monitoring
20 project” means a project that provides youth with—

21 (A) hands-on experience collecting, ana-
22 lyzing, or interpreting biological data about
23 wildlife populations and the ecosystems associ-
24 ated with such populations; and

25 (B) education regarding—

- 1 (i) wildlife science;
- 2 (ii) marine science;
- 3 (iii) conservation; or
- 4 (iv) biodiversity.

