H. R. 5266

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2014

Mr. LoBiondo (for himself, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Posey, and Mr. Murphy of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A BILL

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.

Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the Ad-
ministrator shall make competitive awards
under this paragraph.

“(B) Application for Awards.—The
Administrator shall solicit applications for
awards under this paragraph from State, inter-
state, and regional water pollution control agen-
cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-
ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public
or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-
nizations, and individuals.

“(C) Selection of Recipients.—In se-
lecting award recipients under this paragraph,
the Administrator shall select recipients that
are best able to address urgent and challenging
issues that threaten the ecological and economic
well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall in-
clude—

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

“(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms,
unusual marine mammal mortalities;

“(iii) invasive exotic species which can
threaten wastewater systems and cause
other damage;
“(iv) jellyfish proliferation limiting community access to water during peak tourism seasons;

“(v) flooding which may be related to sea level rise or wetland degradation or loss; or

“(vi) low dissolved oxygen conditions in estuarine waters and related nutrient management.

“(D) PRIORITY.—The Administrator shall give priority for the competitive awards described in subparagraph (A) to national estuary programs that are not part of the Geographic Programs as described in the explanatory statement referred to in section 4 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 7 and printed on page H978 of the Congressional Record on January 15, 2014).”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator $27,000,000, for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for—

“(A) expenses relating to the administration of grants or awards by the Administrator under this section, including the award and oversight of grants and awards, except that such expenses shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this subsection; and

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

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

“(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Administrator shall provide not less than 80 percent of the amounts made available for this section for each fiscal year referred to in paragraph (1) for the development, implementation, and monitoring of each conservation and management plan eligible for grant assistance under subsection (g)(2).

“(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—The Administrator shall provide not less than 15 percent of the amounts made available for this section
in each fiscal year to make competitive awards
described in subsection (g)(3).”.