

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1523

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZA-**
2 **TION; COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

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

5 (1) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts
9 made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the
10 Administrator shall make competitive awards
11 under this paragraph.

12 “(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The
13 Administrator shall solicit applications for
14 awards under this paragraph from State, inter-
15 state, and regional water pollution control agen-
16 cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-
17 ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public
18 or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-
19 nizations, and individuals.

20 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—The
21 Administrator shall select award recipients
22 under this paragraph that, as determined by
23 the Administrator, are best able to address ur-
24 gent and challenging issues that threaten the
25 ecological and economic well-being of coastal
26 areas, including—

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

4 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

5 “(iii) unusual marine mammal mor-
 6 talities;

7 “(iv) invasive exotic species that may
 8 threaten wastewater systems and cause
 9 other damage;

10 “(v) jellyfish proliferation limiting
 11 community access to water during peak
 12 tourism seasons;

13 “(vi) flooding that may be related to
 14 sea level rise or wetland degradation or
 15 loss; and

16 “(vii) low dissolved oxygen conditions
 17 in estuarine waters and related nutrient
 18 management.”; and

19 (2) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the
 20 following:

21 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 23 appropriated to the Administrator \$26,000,000 for
 24 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for—

1 “(A) making grants and awards under
2 subsection (g); and

3 “(B) expenses relating to the administra-
4 tion of grants or awards by the Administrator
5 under this section, including the award and
6 oversight of grants and awards, subject to the
7 condition that such expenses may not exceed 5
8 percent of the amount appropriated under this
9 subsection for a fiscal year.

10 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

11 “(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
12 PLANS.—Not less than 80 percent of the
13 amount made available under this subsection
14 for a fiscal year shall be used by the Adminis-
15 trator for the development, implementation, and
16 monitoring of each conservation and manage-
17 ment plan eligible for grant assistance under
18 subsection (g)(2).

19 “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Not less
20 than 15 percent of the amount made available
21 under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be

- 1 used by the Administrator for making competi-
- 2 tive awards under subsection (g)(4).”.

Passed the Senate August 5, 2015.

Attest:

Secretary.

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