

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 843

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea
Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sea Turtle Rescue As-
3 sistance and Rehabilitation Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RE-**
5 **SPONSE.**

6 Section 408 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
7 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(10) SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION,
11 AND RESPONSE.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
13 ability of appropriations specific to address sea
14 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, the
15 Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the
16 United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
17 include separate eligibility for grants under this
18 subsection to address the purposes described in
19 paragraph (2) with respect to sea turtles.

20 “(B) CONDITIONS OF GRANT.—A grant
21 awarded under this subsection to address sea
22 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response
23 shall—

24 “(i) include the equivalent grant cri-
25 teria and administration authorities and
26 requirements described under paragraph

(3), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4), and paragraphs (5) through (9), developed, as appropriate, and awarded separately for sea turtles and in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in lieu of the Marine Mammal Commission; and

“(ii) in addition to the considerations under paragraph (4)(B), also consider rehabilitation of stranded sea turtles.

“(C) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In order to apply for a grant awarded under this subsection to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, an entity shall—

“(i) submit an application described in paragraph (5) to the Secretary of Commerce with respect to sea turtles;

“(ii) be authorized by and in compliance with—

“(I) an authorization issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(A)) with respect to sea turtles; or

1 “(II) a cooperative agreement en-
 2 tered into under section 6 of the En-
 3 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16
 4 U.S.C. 1535) with respect to sea tur-
 5 tles;

6 “(iii) comply with the standard condi-
 7 tions for care and maintenance of captive
 8 sea turtles prescribed by the Secretary of
 9 the Interior when relevant facilities will be
 10 utilized for such purposes; and

11 “(iv) comply with all relevant data re-
 12 porting, requirements, such as the Sea
 13 Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network
 14 data collection requirements.”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
 16 following:

17 “(c) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
 19 Treasury of the United States—

20 “(A) an interest-bearing fund to be known
 21 as the ‘Joseph R. Geraci Marine Mammal Res-
 22 cue and Rapid Response Fund’; and

23 “(B) an interest-bearing fund to be known
 24 as the ‘Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and
 25 Rapid Response Fund’.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the funds established under paragraph (1) shall be available only for use by the Secretary to provide emergency assistance.”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “marine mammal rescue and response” after “to carry out the”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RESPONSE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response grant program under subsection (b)(10), \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030, to remain available until expended.”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting “or (B)” after “subparagraph (A)”;

1 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(2) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated—

5 “(A) to the Joseph R. Geraci Marine
6 Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund
7 \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
8 2030; and

9 “(B) to the Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilita-
10 tion, and Rapid Response Fund \$500,000 for
11 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

Passed the Senate March 22, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

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