

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3622

To establish a grant program to promote the conservation of the Great Lakes and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a grant program to promote the conservation of the Great Lakes 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Conserva-
5 tion Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish a competitive
8 grant program to increase knowledge about, raise aware-
9 ness of, and educate the public on the importance of con-

1 servation of the Great Lakes in order to improve the over-
2 all health of the Great Lakes.

3 **SEC. 3. GREAT LAKES EDUCATION GRANTS.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY TO AWARD.**—The Secretary of Com-
5 merce is authorized to award grants to eligible entities to
6 carry out eligible activities.

7 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.**—In this Act, the
8 term “eligible entity” means an educational entity or a
9 nonprofit nongovernmental organization, consortium, or
10 other entity that the Secretary of Commerce finds has a
11 demonstrated record of success in carrying out conserva-
12 tion education or outreach programs.

13 (c) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY DEFINED.**—In this Act, the
14 term “eligible activity” means an activity carried out in
15 a State, or across multiple States, that is adjacent to one
16 of the Great Lakes that provides hands-on or real world
17 experiences to increase knowledge about, raise awareness
18 of, or provide education regarding the importance of con-
19 servation of the Great Lakes and on actions individuals
20 can take to promote such conservation, including—

21 (1) educational activities for students that are
22 consistent with elementary and secondary learning
23 standards established by a State;

24 (2) professional development activities for edu-
25 cators;

1 (3) Great Lakes conservation activities that
2 have been identified by a State and adjacent States
3 as a regional priority; or

4 (4) Great Lakes stewardship and place-based
5 education activities.

6 (d) USE OF SUBCONTRACTORS.—An eligible entity
7 awarded a grant under subsection (a) to carry out an eligi-
8 ble activity may utilize subcontractors to carry out such
9 activity.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

11 (a) REPORTS FROM GRANTEES.—The Secretary of
12 Commerce may require an eligible entity awarded a grant
13 under section 3(a) to submit to the Secretary a report de-
14 scribing each activity that was carried out with the grant
15 funds. The Secretary may require such report to include
16 information on any subcontractor utilized by the eligible
17 entity to carry out an activity.

18 (b) REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not later
19 than December 31, 2010, and once every 3 years there-
20 after, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress
21 a report on the grant program authorized by section 3(a).
22 Each such report shall include a description—

23 (1) of the eligible activities carried out with
24 grants awarded under section 3(a) during the pre-

1 vious fiscal year and an assessment of the success of
2 such activities;

3 (2) of the type of education and outreach pro-
4 grams carried out with such grants, disaggregated
5 by State; and

6 (3) of the number of schools, and schools
7 reached through a formal partnership with an eligi-
8 ble entity awarded such a grant, involved in carrying
9 out such programs.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There is authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000
12 for each fiscal year to carry out this Act.

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