

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3337

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Administration Act of 1965 to establish a program to provide technical assistance grants for use by organizations in assisting individuals and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2010

Ms. LANDRIEU introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Administration Act of 1965 to establish a program to provide technical assistance grants for use by organizations in assisting individuals and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

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 “Oil Spill Claims Assist-
5 ance and Recovery Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OIL SPILL CLAIMS ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
3 Economic Development Act of 1965 is amended by insert-
4 ing after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

5 **“SEC. 208. OIL SPILL CLAIMS ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—The
7 Secretary shall establish a grant program to provide to
8 eligible (as determined by the Secretary) organizations
9 technical assistance grants for use in assisting individuals
10 and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
11 in the Gulf of Mexico (referred to in this section as the
12 ‘oil spill’).

13 “(b) APPLICATION.—An organization that seeks to
14 receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
15 retary an application for the grant at such time, in such
16 form, and containing such information as the Secretary
17 shall require.

18 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant pro-
20 vided under this section may be used by an eligible
21 organization—

22 “(A) to support—

23 “(i) education;

24 “(ii) outreach;

25 “(iii) intake;

26 “(iv) language services;

1 “(v) accounting services;

2 “(vi) legal services offered pro bono or
3 by a nonprofit organization;

4 “(vii) damage assessments;

5 “(viii) economic loss analysis;

6 “(ix) collecting and preparing docu-
7 mentation; and

8 “(x) assistance in the preparation and
9 filing of claims or appeals;

10 “(B) to provide assistance to individuals or
11 businesses seeking assistance from or under—

12 “(i) a party responsible for the oil
13 spill;

14 “(ii) the Oil Spill Liability Trust
15 Fund;

16 “(iii) an insurance policy; or

17 “(iv) any other program administered
18 by the Federal Government or a State or
19 local government;

20 “(C) to pay for salaries, training, and ap-
21 propriate expenses relating to the purchase or
22 lease of property to support operations, equip-
23 ment (including computers and telecommuni-
24 cations), and travel expenses;

25 “(D) to assist other organizations in—

1 “(i) assisting specific business sectors;

2 “(ii) providing services;

3 “(iii) assisting specific jurisdictions;

4 or

5 “(iv) otherwise supporting operations;

6 and

7 “(E) to establish an advisory board of
8 service providers and technical experts—

9 “(i) to monitor the claims process re-
10 lating to the oil spill; and

11 “(ii) to provide recommendations to
12 the parties responsible for the oil spill, the
13 National Pollution Funds Center, other ap-
14 propriate agencies, and Congress to im-
15 prove fairness and efficiency in the claims
16 process.

17 “(2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Funds
18 from a grant provided under this section may not be
19 used to provide compensation for damages or re-
20 moval costs relating to the oil spill.

21 “(d) PROVISION OF GRANTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
23 after the date of enactment of the Oil Spill Claims
24 Assistance and Recovery Act, the Secretary shall
25 provide grants under this section.

1 “(2) NETWORKED ORGANIZATIONS.—The Sec-
2 retary is encouraged to consider applications for
3 grants under this section from organizations that
4 have established networks with affected business sec-
5 tors, including—

6 “(A) the fishery and aquaculture indus-
7 tries;

8 “(B) the restaurant, grocery, food proc-
9 essing, and food delivery industries; and

10 “(C) the hotel and tourism industries.

11 “(3) TRAINING.—Not later than 30 days after
12 the date on which an eligible organization receives a
13 grant under this section, the Director of the Na-
14 tional Pollution Funds Center and the parties re-
15 sponsible for the oil spill shall provide training to the
16 organization regarding the applicable rules and pro-
17 cedures for the claims process relating to the oil
18 spill.

19 “(4) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds from a
20 grant provided under this section shall be available
21 until the later of, as determined by the Secretary—

22 “(A) the date that is 6 years after the date
23 on which the oil spill occurred; and

24 “(B) the date on which all claims relating
25 to the oil spill have been satisfied.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3 out this section \$20,000,000.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
5 tents of the Public Works and Economic Development Ad-
6 ministration Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. prec. 3121) is amend-
7 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 207 the
8 following:

“Sec. 208. Oil spill claims assistance and recovery.”.

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