

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1425

To amend the Marine Debris Act to better address severe marine debris events, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. CHU, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Ms. DELBENE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Marine Debris Act to better address severe marine debris events, 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 “Marine Debris Emer-
5 gency Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARINE DEBRIS.**

2 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952)
3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(d) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

5 “(1) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION AND DISBURSE-
6 MENT.—Not later than 60 days after receiving an
7 application for a grant under subsection (c) with re-
8 spect to a severe marine debris event, the Adminis-
9 trator shall, to the extent feasible—

10 “(A) approve or disapprove the application;
11 and

12 “(B) if approving the application, provide
13 the approved grant funds to the grant recipient.

14 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In evaluating applications
15 for grants under subsection (c), the Administrator
16 shall give preference to projects that address severe
17 marine debris events, including projects that address
18 a severe marine debris event that has introduced or
19 is likely to introduce marine invasive species to the
20 United States.

21 “(3) REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a
23 State may request that the Administrator de-
24 clare a severe marine debris event, in such
25 State or a region that includes such State, for
26 purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2).

1 “(B) RESPONSE TO REQUESTS.—Not later
2 than 30 days after receiving a request under
3 subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall ei-
4 ther—

5 “(i) declare a severe marine debris
6 event with respect to the request; or

7 “(ii) provide a response to the Gov-
8 ernor who submitted the request, explain-
9 ing why the Administrator has not de-
10 clared a severe marine debris event with
11 respect to the request.

12 “(e) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall take ap-
13 propriate steps to encourage recipients of grants under
14 this section to—

15 “(1) educate staff and volunteers engaged in
16 marine debris response efforts on the potential
17 threats that marine debris and marine invasive spe-
18 cies may pose to the United States with respect to
19 living marine resources, the marine environment,
20 navigation, and public health; and

21 “(2) coordinate marine debris response efforts
22 with appropriate Federal, State, and local govern-
23 ment and nongovernmental entities.

24 “(f) MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES DEFINED.—In this
25 section, the term ‘marine invasive species’ means a marine

1 nonindigenous species (as defined in section 1003 of the
2 Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control
3 Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702)) the introduction of which
4 to the United States will, or is likely to—

5 “(1) cause economic or environmental harm;

6 “(2) threaten the diversity or abundance of na-
7 tive species or the ecological stability of infested
8 waters; or

9 “(3) disrupt commercial, agricultural,
10 aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on
11 infested waters.”.

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