

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4394

To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College
Program Act, 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 “Opportunities in Coop-
5 erative Education And New Research Partnerships Act”
6 or the “OCEAN Research Partnerships Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT REFERENCES.**

8 Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in
9 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
10 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision, the ref-

1 erence shall be considered to be made to a provision of
 2 the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C.
 3 1121 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF COORDINATION REQUIREMENT.**

5 Section 9 of the National Sea Grant College Program
 6 Amendments of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 857–20) is repealed.

7 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.—Section 202(b) (33
 9 U.S.C. 1121(b)) is amended by inserting “for research,
 10 education, extension services, training, technology trans-
 11 fer, and public service” after “assistance”.

12 (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING TO SEA GRANT PRO-
 13 GRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Section 204(d)(3) (33 U.S.C.
 14 1123(d)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
 16 by striking “sea grant colleges and sea grant insti-
 17 tutes” and inserting “sea grant colleges, sea grant
 18 institutes, sea grant programs, and projects,”; and

19 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sea grant
 20 colleges and sea grant institutes” and inserting “sea
 21 grant colleges, sea grant institutes, sea grant pro-
 22 grams, and projects,”.

1 **SEC. 5. DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOW-**
2 **SHIPS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 208(b) (16 U.S.C.
4 1127(b)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “The Secretary may” and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to
8 the availability of appropriations, shall”;

9 (2) by inserting after “Government.” the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(2) PLACEMENT PRIORITIES.—In placing fel-
12 lows in the legislative branch each year under this
13 section the Secretary shall give priority to—

14 “(A) positions in offices of, or with Mem-
15 bers on, committees of Congress that have ju-
16 risdiction over the National Oceanic and Atmos-
17 pheric Administration; or

18 “(B) positions in offices of Members of
19 Congress that have a demonstrated interest in
20 ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.

21 “(3) DURATION.—”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(4) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year
25 2016 and thereafter, the head of any Federal
26 agency may, subject to the availability of appro-

1 priations, appoint, without regard to the provi-
2 sions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5,
3 United States Code, other than sections 3303
4 and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (B) directly to a posi-
6 tion with any Federal agency for which the can-
7 didate meets Office of Personnel Management
8 qualification standards.

9 “(B) DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POL-
10 ICY FELLOWS.—An individual shall be a quali-
11 fied candidate described in subparagraph (B) if
12 the individual is a former recipient of a fellow-
13 ship under this subsection who—

14 “(i) earned a graduate or post-
15 graduate degree, including a professional
16 degree, in a field related to ocean, coastal,
17 or Great Lakes science, resource manage-
18 ment, law, or policy from an accredited in-
19 stitution of higher education; and

20 “(ii) successfully fulfilled the require-
21 ments of the fellowship.

22 “(C) DEADLINE FOR EXERCISE OF DIRECT
23 APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—The head of a
24 Federal agency may not exercise direct appoint-
25 ment authority under this paragraph with re-

1 spect to a specific qualified candidate after the
 2 end of the 3-year period beginning on the date
 3 the candidate completes fulfillment of the re-
 4 quirements of the candidate’s fellowship under
 5 this subsection.”.

6 (b) APPLICATION OF PLACEMENT PRIORITIES.—The
 7 amendment made by subsection (a)(2) of this section shall
 8 apply beginning with respect to the first calendar year be-
 9 ginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS.**

11 Section 209(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(2)) is amend-
 12 ed—

13 (1) in the heading, by striking “BIENNIAL” and
 14 inserting “PERIODIC”;

15 (2) by striking “The Board shall report to the
 16 Congress every two years” and inserting “Not less
 17 frequently than once every 3 years, the Board shall
 18 submit to Congress a report”; and

19 (3) by inserting before the last sentence the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES OF DEPART-
 22 MENT OF COMMERCE.—”.

23 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 Section 212 (33 U.S.C. 1131) is amended—

1 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
6 chapter—

7 “(A) \$75,600,000 for fiscal year 2016;

8 “(B) \$79,380,000 for fiscal year 2017;

9 “(C) \$83,350,000 for fiscal year 2018;

10 “(D) \$87,520,000 for fiscal year 2019;

11 “(E) \$91,900,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

12 “(F) \$96,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.

13 “(2) PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEARS
14 2016 THROUGH 2021.—In addition to the amounts
15 authorized under paragraph (1), there is authorized
16 to be appropriated \$18,000,000 for each of fiscal
17 years 2016 through 2021 for competitive grants for
18 the following:

19 “(A) University research on the biology,
20 prevention, and control of aquatic nonnative
21 species.

22 “(B) University research on oyster dis-
23 eases, oyster restoration, and oyster-related
24 human health risks.

1 “(C) University research on the biology,
2 prevention, and forecasting of harmful algal
3 blooms.

4 “(D) University research, education, train-
5 ing, and extension services and activities fo-
6 cused on coastal resilience and United States
7 working waterfronts and other regional or na-
8 tional priority issues identified in the strategic
9 plan under section 204(c)(1).

10 “(E) University research on sustainable
11 aquaculture techniques and technologies.

12 “(F) Fishery extension activities conducted
13 by sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes to
14 enhance, and not supplant, existing core pro-
15 gram funding.”;

16 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(1) ADMINISTRATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There may not be
21 used for administration of programs under this
22 title in a fiscal year more than 5.5 percent of
23 the lesser of—

1 “(i) the amount authorized to be ap-
 2 propriated under this title for the fiscal
 3 year; or

4 “(ii) the amount appropriated under
 5 this title for the fiscal year.

6 “(B) CRITICAL STAFFING REQUIRE-
 7 MENTS.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
 9 use the authority under subchapter VI of
 10 chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code,
 11 and section 1129 of this title, to meet any
 12 critical staffing requirement while carrying
 13 out the activities authorized in this title.

14 “(ii) EXCEPTION FROM CAP.—For
 15 purposes of subparagraph (A), any costs
 16 incurred as a result of an exercise of au-
 17 thority as described in clause (i) shall not
 18 be considered an amount used for adminis-
 19 tration of programs under this title in a
 20 fiscal year.”;

21 (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating
 22 subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d),
 23 respectively; and

24 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by—

1 (A) striking “The amount” and inserting
 2 the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount”; and

4 (B) adding at the end the following:

5 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR PRIZE COMPETITION.—

6 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), funds for an-
 7 nounced prizes otherwise authorized shall remain
 8 available, without fiscal year limitation, until the
 9 prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.”.

10 **SEC. 8. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

11 The National Sea Grant College Program Act (33
 12 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.) is amended—

13 (1) in section 202(a)(6) (33 U.S.C.
 14 1121(a)(6)), by striking “management, manage-
 15 ment,” and inserting “management,”; and

16 (2) in section 204(d)(3)(B) (33 U.S.C.
 17 1123(d)(3)(B)), by moving clause (vi) two ems to
 18 the right.

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