

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 944

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 2, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

AN ACT

To reauthorize the National Estuary Program, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
3 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using the amounts
7 made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the
8 Administrator shall make competitive awards
9 under this paragraph.

10 “(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The
11 Administrator shall solicit applications for
12 awards under this paragraph from State, inter-
13 state, and regional water pollution control agen-
14 cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-
15 ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public
16 or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-
17 nizations, and individuals.

18 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—In se-
19 lecting award recipients under this paragraph,
20 the Administrator shall select recipients that
21 are best able to address urgent and challenging
22 issues that threaten the ecological and economic
23 well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall in-
24 clude—

1 “(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses
2 resulting in significant impacts on fisheries
3 and water quality;

4 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms;

5 “(iii) unusual marine mammal mor-
6 talities;

7 “(iv) invasive exotic species that may
8 threaten wastewater systems and cause
9 other damage;

10 “(v) jellyfish proliferation limiting
11 community access to water during peak
12 tourism seasons;

13 “(vi) flooding that may be related to
14 sea level rise or wetland degradation or
15 loss; and

16 “(vii) low dissolved oxygen conditions
17 in estuarine waters and related nutrient
18 management.”.

19 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
21 Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection
22 (i) and inserting the following:

23 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Administrator \$27,000,000 for
3 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for—

4 “(A) expenses relating to the administra-
5 tion of grants or awards by the Administrator
6 under this section, including the award and
7 oversight of grants and awards, except that
8 such expenses may not exceed 5 percent of the
9 amount appropriated under this subsection for
10 a fiscal year; and

11 “(B) making grants and awards under
12 subsection (g).

13 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

14 “(A) CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
15 PLANS.—Not less than 80 percent of the
16 amount made available under this subsection
17 for a fiscal year shall be used by the Adminis-
18 trator for the development, implementation, and
19 monitoring of each of the conservation and
20 management plans eligible for grant assistance
21 under subsection (g)(2).

22 “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Not less
23 than 15 percent of the amount made available
24 under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be

