

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2705

To authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2016

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems 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 “Coral Reef Sustain-
5 ability Through Innovation Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRIZE COMPETITIONS TO PROMOTE INNOVATION**
2 **IN CORAL REEF RESEARCH AND CONSERVA-**
3 **TION.**

4 The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.
5 6401 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating sections 208, 209, and 210
7 (16 U.S.C. 6407, 6408, and 6409) as sections 209,
8 210, and 211, respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after section 207 the following:

10 **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency
12 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task
13 Force established under Executive Order 13089 issued on
14 June 11, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note) may, either individ-
15 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry
16 out a program to award prizes competitively under section
17 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of
18 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

19 “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under
20 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-
21 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-
22 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to
23 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,
24 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

25 “(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to
26 establish programs under this section that address com-

1 munities, environments, or industries that are in distress
 2 due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems,
 3 including—

4 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that
 5 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral
 6 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow
 7 recovery following disturbances, including ocean
 8 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

9 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
 10 ment options for communities or industries that are
 11 experiencing significant financial hardship;

12 “(3) the development of adaptation options to
 13 alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by dam-
 14 age to coral reef ecosystems;

15 “(4) the development of measures to help vul-
 16 nerable communities or industries, with an emphasis
 17 on rural communities and businesses; and

18 “(5) the development of adaptation and man-
 19 agement options for impacted tourism industries.”.

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