

1 SB225  
2 164290-3  
3 By Senators Hightower, Figures, Glover, Pittman, and Albritton  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
5 First Read: 12-MAR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under federal law, the Resources and  
9 Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities  
10 and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act  
11 (RESTORE Act) dedicates 80 percent of all Clean  
12 Water Act penalties paid by those responsible for  
13 the 2010 gulf oil disaster to Gulf Coast  
14 restoration.

15 This bill would require that any Clean Water  
16 Act penalty funds received by the state for damages  
17 caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that are  
18 not disbursed pursuant to the RESTORE Act be  
19 deposited into a trust account with 80 percent of  
20 the funds expended in Baldwin and Mobile Counties  
21 on scientific research, environmental restoration  
22 of coastal areas, and economic incentives and  
23 initiatives.

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25 A BILL  
26 TO BE ENTITLED  
27 AN ACT

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To require that certain funds received by the state for damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill be deposited in a trust account; to provide for the distribution of the funds; and to require the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to administer the funds for certain purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be cited and may be known as the RESTORE Assurance Act of Alabama.

Section 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "disproportionately affected county" means Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

(b) Any Clean Water Act penalty funds received by the state for damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that are not disbursed from the federal Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund pursuant to the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE), Pub. L. No. 112-141 (2012) shall be deposited into the applicable state trust funds and expended pursuant to state law or as approved by the Legislature as provided in subsection (c).

(c) (1) Eighty percent of such funds may be used for any of the following:

a. Scientific research into the impact of the oil spill on fisheries and coastal wildlife and vegetation along

1 disproportionately affected county shorelines and the  
2 development of strategies to implement restoration measures  
3 suggested by such research.

4 b. Environmental restoration of coastal areas  
5 damaged by the oil spill in any disproportionately affected  
6 county.

7 c. Economic incentives directed to any  
8 disproportionately affected county.

9 d. Initiatives to expand and diversify the economies  
10 of any disproportionately affected county.

11 (2) The remaining 20 percent of such funds may be  
12 used for any of the following:

13 a. Economic incentives directed to any county other  
14 than a disproportionately affected county.

15 b. Initiatives to expand and diversify the economies  
16 of any county other than a disproportionately affected county.

17 (d) (1) The Alabama Department of Environmental  
18 Management is the lead agency for expending the funds  
19 designated for environmental restoration efforts.

20 (2) The Alabama Department of Economic and Community  
21 Affairs is the lead agency for expending the funds designated  
22 for economic incentives and diversification efforts.

23 Section 3. This act shall become effective  
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.