

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1276

To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation planning and response program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation planning and response 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coastal State Climate
5 Change Planning Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COASTAL**
2 **ZONE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coastal Zone Management
4 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 “CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING

7 “SEC. 320. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 establish consistent with the national policies set forth in
9 section 303 a coastal climate change adaptation planning
10 and response program to—

11 “(1) provide assistance to coastal states to vol-
12 untarily develop coastal climate change adaptation
13 plans pursuant to approved management programs
14 approved under section 306, to minimize contribu-
15 tions to climate change and to prepare for and re-
16 duce the negative consequences that may result from
17 climate change in the coastal zone; and

18 “(2) provide financial and technical assistance
19 and training to enable coastal states to implement
20 plans developed pursuant to this section through
21 coastal states’ enforceable policies.

22 “(b) GUIDELINES.—Within 180 days after the date
23 of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation
24 with the coastal states, shall issue guidelines for the imple-
25 mentation of the grant program established under sub-
26 section (c).

1 “(c) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING
2 GRANTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to
4 the availability of appropriations, may make a grant
5 to any coastal state for the purpose of developing cli-
6 mate change adaptation plans pursuant to guidelines
7 issued by the Secretary under subsection (b).

8 “(2) PLAN CONTENT.—A plan developed with a
9 grant under this section shall include the following:

10 “(A) Identification of public facilities and
11 public services, working waterfronts, coastal re-
12 sources of national significance, coastal waters,
13 energy facilities, or other land and water uses
14 located in the coastal zone that are likely to be
15 impacted by climate change.

16 “(B) Adaptive management strategies for
17 land use to respond or adapt to changing envi-
18 ronmental conditions, including strategies to
19 protect biodiversity, protect water quality, and
20 establish habitat buffer zones, migration cor-
21 ridors, and climate refugia.

22 “(C) Requirements to initiate and main-
23 tain long-term monitoring of environmental
24 change to assess coastal zone adaptation and to
25 adjust when necessary adaptive management

1 strategies and new planning guidelines to attain
2 the policies under section 303.

3 “(D) Other information considered nec-
4 essary by the Secretary to identify the full
5 range of climate change impacts affecting coast-
6 al communities.

7 “(3) STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS.—
8 Plans developed with a grant under this section shall
9 be consistent with State hazard mitigation plans and
10 natural disaster response and recovery programs de-
11 veloped under State or Federal law.

12 “(4) ALLOCATION.—Grants under this section
13 shall be available only to coastal states with manage-
14 ment programs approved by the Secretary under sec-
15 tion 306 and shall be allocated among such coastal
16 states in a manner consistent with regulations pro-
17 mulgated pursuant to section 306(c).

18 “(5) PRIORITY.—In the awarding of grants
19 under this subsection the Secretary may give priority
20 to any coastal state that has received grant funding
21 to develop program changes pursuant to paragraphs
22 (1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 309(a).

23 “(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
24 may provide technical assistance to a coastal state
25 consistent with section 310 to ensure the timely de-

1 velopment of plans supported by grants awarded
2 under this subsection.

3 “(7) FEDERAL APPROVAL.—In order to be eligi-
4 ble for a grant under subsection (d), a coastal state
5 must have its plan developed under this section ap-
6 proved by the Secretary.

7 “(d) COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT GRANTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to
9 the availability of appropriations, may make grants
10 to any coastal state that has a climate change adap-
11 tation plan approved under subsection (c)(7), in
12 order to support projects that implement strategies
13 contained within such plans.

14 “(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
15 retary within 90 days after approval of the first plan
16 approved under subsection (c)(7), shall publish in
17 the Federal Register requirements regarding appli-
18 cations, allocations, eligible activities, and all terms
19 and conditions for grants awarded under this sub-
20 section. No less than 30 percent, and no more than
21 50 percent, of the funds appropriated in any fiscal
22 year for grants under this subsection shall be award-
23 ed through a merit-based competitive process.

24 “(3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
25 may award grants to coastal states to implement

1 projects in the coastal zone to address stress factors
2 in order to improve coastal climate change adapta-
3 tion, including the following:

4 “(A) Activities to address physical disturb-
5 ances within the coastal zone, especially activi-
6 ties related to public facilities and public serv-
7 ices, tourism, sedimentation, ocean acidification,
8 and other factors negatively impacting coastal
9 waters, and fisheries-associated habitat destruc-
10 tion or alteration.

11 “(B) Monitoring, control, or eradication of
12 disease organisms and invasive species.

13 “(C) Activities to address the loss, deg-
14 radation, or fragmentation of wildlife habitat
15 through projects to establish or protect marine
16 and terrestrial habitat buffers, wildlife refugia,
17 other wildlife refuges, or networks thereof, pres-
18 ervation of migratory wildlife corridors and
19 other transition zones, and restoration of fish
20 and wildlife habitat.

21 “(D) Implementation of projects to reduce,
22 mitigate, or otherwise address likely impacts
23 caused by natural hazards in the coastal zone,
24 including sea level rise, coastal inundation,
25 coastal erosion and subsidence, severe weather

1 events such as cyclonic storms, tsunamis and
2 other seismic threats, and fluctuating Great
3 Lakes water levels.

4 “(E) Provide technical training and assist-
5 ance to local coastal policy makers to increase
6 awareness of science, management, and tech-
7 nology information related to climate change
8 and adaptation strategies.

9 “(4) PROMOTION AND USE OF NATIONAL ESTU-
10 ARINE RESEARCH RESERVES.—The Secretary shall
11 promote and encourage the use of National Estua-
12 rine Research Reserves as sites for pilot or dem-
13 onstration projects carried out with grants awarded
14 under this section.”.

15 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
16 318(a) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16
17 U.S.C. 1464) is further amended by striking “and” after
18 the semicolon at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the
19 period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”,
20 and by adding at the end the following:

21 “(3) for grants under subsections (c) and (d) of
22 section 320, such sums as are necessary.”.

23 (c) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section
24 shall be construed to require any coastal state to amend
25 or modify its approved management program pursuant to

1 section 306(e) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of
2 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1455(e)), or to extend the enforceable
3 policies of a coastal state beyond the coastal zone as iden-
4 tified in the coastal state's approved management pro-
5 gram.

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