

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 439

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to allocate resources for remote search and rescue activities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2023

Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to allocate resources for remote search and rescue activities, 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 “Public Land Search  
5 and Rescue Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR REMOTE SEARCH AND RES-**  
2 **CUE ACTIVITIES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
5 Interior shall establish a program (in this Act referred to  
6 as the “Program”) to allocate resources to remote search  
7 and rescue activities conducted on lands under the juris-  
8 diction of the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary  
9 of the Interior.

10 (b) **GRANT AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out the Pro-  
11 gram, the Secretary may award a grant on a competitive  
12 basis in accordance with this section.

13 (c) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.**—The Secretary may  
14 award a grant under the Program to a State, political sub-  
15 division thereof, or their designee, that conducts search  
16 and rescue operations, determined by the Secretary to  
17 have the authority and capability to carry out a project  
18 described in subsection (d).

19 (d) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.**—Grant funds awarded  
20 under the Program may be used—

21 (1) by an eligible recipient to purchase equip-  
22 ment and gear necessary for remote search and res-  
23 cue activities;

24 (2) to reimburse an eligible recipient for the  
25 cost of maintenance and repair of remote search and

1 rescue equipment owned or leased by an eligible re-  
2 cipient; and

3 (3) by an eligible recipient to reimburse State  
4 and local agencies responsible for remote search and  
5 rescue activities.

6 (e) APPLICATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant  
8 under the Program, an eligible recipient shall submit  
9 to the Secretary an application in such form, at such  
10 time, and containing such information as the Sec-  
11 retary determines to be appropriate.

12 (2) ADDITIONAL APPLICATION.—An eligible re-  
13 cipient may submit to the Secretary an additional  
14 application in such form, at such time, and con-  
15 taining such information as the Secretary deter-  
16 mines to be appropriate for additional funding for  
17 purposes under subsection (d)(2).

18 (f) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize an ap-  
19 plication from an eligible recipient who serves an area with  
20 a high ratio of visitors to residents.

21 (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of assist-  
22 ance under the Program shall be 75 percent of the cost  
23 of an eligible project.

24 (h) REMOTE SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITY DE-  
25 FINED.—In this section, the term “remote search and res-

1 cue activity” means an activity that utilizes, trains, or sup-  
2 ports responders with specialized equipment to locate, pro-  
3 vide assistance to, and remove to safety individuals who  
4 are lost, injured, stranded, or entrapped in remote areas.

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