

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6251

To amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act to establish an expedited award process for grants to address marine debris emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2012

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DICKS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. STARK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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

A BILL

To amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act to establish an expedited award process for grants to address marine debris emergencies, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Marine Debris Emer-
3 gency Act of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. MARINE DEBRIS EMERGENCIES.**

5 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
6 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(d) MARINE DEBRIS EMERGENCY.—

9 “(1) DECLARATION OF A MARINE DEBRIS
10 EMERGENCY.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
12 may declare a marine debris emergency if the
13 Administrator determines that marine debris—

14 “(i) is an immediate threat to the
15 United States with respect to—

16 “(I) living marine resources;

17 “(II) the marine environment;

18 “(III) navigation safety; or

19 “(IV) public health; and

20 “(ii) requires Federal resources to
21 supplement the State and local resources
22 available to alleviate such threat.

23 “(B) REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a
25 State may request that the Administrator

1 declare a marine debris emergency in such
2 State or a region that includes such State.

3 “(ii) ADMINISTRATOR MAY REQUEST
4 INFORMATION.—In response to a Gov-
5 ernor’s request under clause (i), the Ad-
6 ministrator may request that the Governor
7 provide information on—

8 “(I) the nature and immediacy of
9 the threat; and

10 “(II) the nature and amount of
11 State and local resources that have
12 been or will be committed to alle-
13 viating the threat.

14 “(C) RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR’S RE-
15 QUEST.—Within 30 days after a Governor sub-
16 mits a request under subparagraph (B)(i), the
17 Administrator shall either—

18 “(i) grant that Governor’s request; or

19 “(ii) submit a response to that Gov-
20 ernor, explaining why the Administrator
21 has not granted the Governor’s request.

22 “(2) PREFERENCE FOR MARINE DEBRIS EMER-
23 GENCIES IN MARINE DEBRIS GRANTS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applica-
25 tions for grants under section 3(c), the Admin-

1 administrator shall give preference to projects to ad-
2 dress marine debris emergencies, including
3 projects to address marine debris that has in-
4 troduced or is likely to introduce marine
5 invasive species into the United States.

6 “(B) EXPEDITED GRANT AWARD PROC-
7 ESS.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of
8 an application under subparagraph (A), the Ad-
9 ministrator shall, to the extent feasible—

10 “(i) approve or disapprove such appli-
11 cation; and

12 “(ii) if such application is approved,
13 disperse the approved funds to the grantee.

14 “(3) MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES.—In this sec-
15 tion, the term ‘marine invasive species’ means a ma-
16 rine nonindigenous species (as defined in section
17 4702 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Pre-
18 vention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702))
19 the introduction of which to the United States will,
20 or is likely to, cause economic or environmental
21 harm, threaten the diversity or abundance of native
22 species or the ecological stability of infested waters,
23 or disrupt commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or
24 recreational activities dependent on such waters.”.

1 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS ENGAGED IN**
2 **MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE EFFORTS.**

3 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
4 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is further amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) GUIDANCE FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS ENGAGED
7 IN MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE EFFORTS.—The Adminis-
8 trator shall take appropriate steps to encourage grant re-
9 cipients under this section to—

10 “(1) educate staff and volunteers who are en-
11 gaged in marine debris response efforts on the po-
12 tential threats that marine debris and marine
13 invasive species (as defined in subsection (d)(3))
14 may pose to the United States with respect to living
15 marine resources, the marine environment, naviga-
16 tion, and public health; and

17 “(2) coordinate their marine debris response ef-
18 forts with relevant Federal, State, local, and non-
19 governmental entities.”.

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