

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 347

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2025

Mr. KEATING introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program.

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 “Sea Turtle Rescue As-
5 sistance and Rehabilitation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RE-**
7 **SPONSE.**

8 Section 408 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
9 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(10) SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION,
4 AND RESPONSE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
6 ability of appropriations specific to address sea
7 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, the
8 Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the
9 United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
10 include separate eligibility for grants under this
11 subsection to address the purposes described in
12 paragraph (2) with respect to sea turtles.

13 “(B) CONDITIONS OF GRANT.—A grant
14 awarded under this subsection to address sea
15 turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response
16 shall—

17 “(i) include the equivalent grant cri-
18 teria and administration authorities and
19 requirements described under paragraph
20 (3), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-
21 graph (4), and paragraphs (5) through (9),
22 developed, as appropriate, and awarded
23 separately for sea turtles and in consulta-
24 tion with the United States Fish and Wild-

1 life Service in lieu of the Marine Mammal
2 Commission; and

3 “(ii) in addition to the considerations
4 under paragraph (4)(B), also consider re-
5 habilitation of stranded sea turtles.

6 “(C) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In order to
7 apply for a grant awarded under this subsection
8 to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and
9 response, an entity shall—

10 “(i) submit an application described
11 in paragraph (5) to the Secretary of Com-
12 merce with respect to sea turtles;

13 “(ii) be authorized by and in compli-
14 ance with—

15 “(I) an authorization issued
16 under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the En-
17 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16
18 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(A)) with respect to
19 sea turtles; or

20 “(II) a cooperative agreement en-
21 tered into under section 6 of the En-
22 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16
23 U.S.C. 1535) with respect to sea tur-
24 tles;

1 “(iii) comply with the standard condi-
2 tions for care and maintenance of captive
3 sea turtles prescribed by the Secretary of
4 the Interior when relevant facilities will be
5 utilized for such purposes; and

6 “(iv) comply with all relevant data re-
7 porting requirements, such as the Sea Tur-
8 tle Stranding and Salvage Network data
9 collection requirements.

10 “(D) SUNSET.—The authority of the Sec-
11 retary of Commerce and the Director of the
12 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to
13 carry out this paragraph shall terminate on the
14 date that is 7 years after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this paragraph.”;

16 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(c) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
20 Treasury of the United States—

21 “(A) an interest-bearing fund to known as
22 the ‘Joseph R. Geraci Marine Mammal Rescue
23 and Rapid Response Fund’; and

1 “(B) an interest-bearing fund to be known
2 as the ‘Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and
3 Rapid Response Fund’.

4 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the funds
5 established under paragraph (1) shall be available
6 only for use by the Secretary to provide emergency
7 assistance.”; and

8 (3) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by inserting “ma-
9 rine mammal rescue and response” after “to carry
10 out the”.

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