

Calendar No. 181

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 756

[Report No. 115–135]

To reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2017

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

JULY 24, 2017

Reported by Mr. THUNE, without amendment

A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, 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 “Save Our Seas Act
3 of 2017” or the “SOS Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.**

5 Subsection (b) of section 3 of the Marine Debris Act
6 (33 U.S.C. 1952(b)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (2) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the period
10 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(6) work with other Federal agencies to de-
13 velop outreach and education strategies to address
14 both land- and sea-based sources of marine debris;
15 and

16 “(7) work with the Department of State and
17 other Federal agencies to promote international ac-
18 tion to reduce the incidence of marine debris.”.

19 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.**

20 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952)
21 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 section:

23 “(d) ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS
24 EVENTS.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Ad-
26 ministrator or at the request of the Governor of an

1 affected State, the Administrator shall determine
2 whether there is a severe marine debris event.

3 “(2) ASSISTANCE.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator
5 makes a determination under paragraph (1)
6 that there is a severe marine debris event, the
7 Administrator is authorized to make sums
8 available to be used by the affected State or by
9 the Administrator in cooperation with the af-
10 fected State—

11 “(i) to assist in the cleanup and re-
12 sponse required by the severe marine de-
13bris event; or

14 “(ii) such other activity as the Admin-
15 istrator determines is appropriate in re-
16 sponse to the severe marine debris event.

17 “(B) PRIORITY ASSISTANCE.—In providing
18 assistance under this paragraph, the Adminis-
19trator shall prioritize assistance for activities to
20 respond to a severe marine debris event—

21 “(i) in a rural or remote community;

22 or

23 “(ii) in a habitat of national concern.

24 “(3) FUNDING.—

1 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal
 2 share of the cost of an activity carried out
 3 under the authority of this subsection shall
 4 be—

5 “(i) if the activity is funded wholly by
 6 funds made available by an entity, includ-
 7 ing the government of a foreign country, to
 8 the Federal Government for the purpose of
 9 responding to a severe marine debris event,
 10 100 percent of the cost of the activity; or

11 “(ii) for any activity other than an ac-
 12 tivity funded as described in clause (i), 75
 13 percent of the cost of the activity.

14 “(B) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
 15 PENSES.—In the case of an activity funded as
 16 described in subparagraph (A)(i), not more
 17 than 5 percent of the funds made available for
 18 the activity may be used by the Administrator
 19 for administrative expenses.”.

20 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGE-**
 21 **MENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that the President
 23 should—

24 (1) support Federal funding for research and
 25 development of bio-based and other alternatives or

1 environmentally feasible improvements to materials
2 that reduce municipal solid waste and its con-
3 sequences in the ocean;

4 (2) work with representatives of foreign coun-
5 tries that contribute the most to the global marine
6 debris problem to learn about, and find solutions to,
7 the contributions of such countries to marine debris
8 in the world's oceans;

9 (3) carry out studies to determine—

10 (A) the primary means by which solid
11 waste enters the oceans;

12 (B) the manner in which waste manage-
13 ment infrastructure can be most effective in
14 preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

15 (C) the long-term economic impacts of ma-
16 rine debris on the national economies of each
17 country set out in paragraph (1) and on the
18 global economy; and

19 (D) the economic benefits of decreasing the
20 amount of marine debris in the oceans;

21 (4) work with representatives of foreign coun-
22 tries that contribute the most to the global marine
23 debris problem, including land-based sources, to con-
24 clude one or more new international agreements that
25 include provisions—

1 (A) to mitigate the risk of land-based ma-
 2 rine debris contributed by such countries reach-
 3 ing an ocean; and

4 (B) to increase technical assistance and in-
 5 vestment in waste management infrastructure,
 6 if the President determines appropriate; and

7 (5) encourage the United States Trade Rep-
 8 resentative to consider the impact of marine debris
 9 in relevant future trade agreements.

10 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DE-**
 11 **BRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

12 Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C.
 13 1954(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and
 15 inserting a semicolon;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
 17 graph (7); and

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(5) the Department of State;

21 “(6) the Department of the Interior; and”.

22 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958)
 24 is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated for each fis-
3 cal year 2018 through 2022—

4 “(1) to the Administrator for carrying out sec-
5 tions 3, 5, and 6, \$10,000,000, of which no more
6 than 10 percent may be for administrative costs;
7 and

8 “(2) to the Secretary of the Department in
9 which the Coast Guard is operating, for the use of
10 the Commandant of the Coast Guard in carrying out
11 section 4, \$2,000,000, of which no more than 10
12 percent may be used for administrative costs.”.

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