

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3919

To require research in coastal sustainability and resilience, to ensure that the Federal Government continues to implement and advance coastal resiliency efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 require research in coastal sustainability and resilience, to ensure that the Federal Government continues to implement and advance coastal resiliency efforts, 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 “Creating Opportunity
5 And Sustainability Through Science Act” or the
6 “COASTS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) coastal cities and communities are particu-
4 larly vulnerable to hazards and extreme weather
5 events, accelerating the degradation of natural and
6 built infrastructure that coastal economies and pop-
7 ulations depend upon; and

8 (2) such degradation harms community resil-
9 iency and exposes coastal cities and their inhabitants
10 to more frequent and more severe hazards, impact-
11 ing the ecosystems that provide livelihoods, food, and
12 energy, and other essential benefits.

13 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-**
14 **TRATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.**

15 (a) COASTAL SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT: COMPETI-
16 TIVE EXTERNAL RESEARCH.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce,
18 acting through applicable National Oceanic and At-
19 mospheric Administration programs within the Na-
20 tional Ocean Service, the Office of Oceanic and At-
21 mospheric Research, and the National Marine Fish-
22 eries Service, shall carry out an extramural competi-
23 tively awarded grants program focused on inter-
24 disciplinary coastal resilience and sustainability.

25 (2) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the program
26 shall be to develop scalable, best practices—

1 (A) to prepare more resilient, sustainable
2 cities and resilient communities; and

3 (B) to reduce disaster recovery costs.

4 (3) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall con-
5 duct the program in collaboration with business and
6 industry, government agencies, academic institu-
7 tions, and coastal community stakeholders.

8 (4) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant
9 under this subsection, an applicant must be an insti-
10 tution of higher education, nonprofit organization,
11 State, local, or Tribal Government, for-profit organi-
12 zation, United States Territory, or Federal agency
13 that has statutory authority to receive transfers of
14 funds.

15 (b) COASTAL RESILIENCE RESEARCH COMPETITIVE
16 GRANTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce,
18 acting through the National Oceanic and Atmos-
19 pheric Administration, shall annually award competi-
20 tive grants for—

21 (A) activities that strengthen coastal com-
22 munities; and

23 (B) restoration of coastal habitats to pro-
24 vide vital habitat for fish and strengthen the re-
25 silience of coastal ecosystems.

1 (2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under
2 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to
3 funding projects for—

4 (A) protecting life and critical infrastruc-
5 ture that, if destroyed or damaged, would have
6 a debilitating impact on economic security, un-
7 dermine community resiliency and adaptation,
8 and threaten public health or safety;

9 (B) assessing the effects of local land-use
10 considerations on coastal and marine resources;

11 (C) developing decision-support tools useful
12 to coastal communities;

13 (D) determining societal, ecological, and
14 resiliency benefits of coastal restoration and
15 natural, nature-based, and man-made infra-
16 structure, and how these benefits affect the sus-
17 tainability of coastal ecosystems;

18 (E) citizen-science monitoring of coastal
19 and marine resources as part of efforts to pro-
20 tect coastal communities;

21 (F) evaluating potential outcomes associ-
22 ated with developing new commercial and rec-
23 reational fishery resources, including aqua-
24 culture and targeting invasive and range-ex-
25 panding species;

1 (G) monitoring and developing ecosystem-
2 based approaches to managing coastal eco-
3 systems to promote sustainability;

4 (H) assessing the capacity of human com-
5 munities to adapt to coastal hazards;

6 (I) assessing coastal vulnerability and risk;

7 (J) evaluating adaptation and restoration
8 approaches to reduce risk, including through
9 the use of natural, nature-based, and man-made
10 features; and

11 (K) minimizing costs associated with dam-
12 ages incurred from natural disasters, flooding,
13 and sea level rise.

14 **SEC. 4. DONATIONS.**

15 The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Na-
16 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, may ac-
17 cept and use donations of funds to implement this Act.

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