

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 756

AN ACT

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.—If the Administrator makes
4 a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a
5 severe marine debris event, the Administrator is au-
6 thorized to make sums available to be used by the
7 affected State or by the Administrator in coopera-
8 tion with the affected State—

9 “(A) to assist in the cleanup and response
10 required by the severe marine debris event; or

11 “(B) to conduct such other activity as the
12 Administrator determines is appropriate in re-
13 sponse to the severe marine debris event.

14 “(3) FUNDING.—

15 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal
16 share of the cost of an activity carried out
17 under the authority of this subsection shall
18 be—

19 “(i) if the activity is funded wholly by
20 funds made available by an entity, includ-
21 ing the government of a foreign country, to
22 the Federal Government for the purpose of
23 responding to a severe marine debris event,
24 100 percent of the cost of the activity; or

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

4 “(B) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
5 PENSES.—In the case of an activity funded as
6 described in subparagraph (A)(i), not more
7 than 5 percent of the funds made available for
8 the activity may be used by the Administrator
9 for administrative expenses.”.

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

12 It is the sense of Congress that the President
13 should—

14 (1) support research and development, includ-
15 ing through the establishment of a prize competition,
16 of bio-based and other alternatives or environ-
17 mentally feasible improvements to materials that re-
18 duce municipal solid waste and its consequences in
19 the ocean;

20 (2) work with representatives of foreign coun-
21 tries that contribute the most to the global marine
22 debris problem to learn about, and find solutions to,
23 the contributions of such countries to marine debris
24 in the world’s oceans;

25 (3) carry out studies to determine—

1 (A) the primary means by which solid
2 waste enters the oceans;

3 (B) the manner in which waste manage-
4 ment infrastructure can be most effective in
5 preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

6 (C) the long-term economic impacts of ma-
7 rine debris on the national economies of each
8 country set out in paragraph (1) and on the
9 global economy; and

10 (D) the economic benefits of decreasing the
11 amount of marine debris in the oceans;

12 (4) work with representatives of foreign coun-
13 tries that contribute the most to the global marine
14 debris problem, including land-based sources, to con-
15 clude one or more new international agreements that
16 include provisions—

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

20 (B) to increase technical assistance and in-
21 vestment in waste management infrastructure,
22 if the President determines appropriate; and

23 (5) encourage the United States Trade Rep-
24 resentative to consider the impact of marine debris
25 in relevant future trade agreements.

1 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DE-**
2 **BRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

3 Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C.
4 1954(b)) is amended—

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

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

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(5) the Department of State;

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

13 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

23 “(2) to the Secretary of the Department in
24 which the Coast Guard is operating, for the use of
25 the Commandant of the Coast Guard in carrying out

1 section 4, \$2,000,000, of which no more than 10
2 percent may be used for administrative costs.”.

Passed the Senate August 3, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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