

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5618

To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. ABER-
CROMBIE, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. FARR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College
Program Act, 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 “National Sea Grant
5 College Program Amendments Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

7 Except as otherwise expressly provided therein, when-
8 ever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in
9 terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other
10 provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to

1 a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant Col-
2 lege Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 202(a) (33 U.S.C. 1121(a))
5 is amended—

6 (1) by amending paragraph (1)(D) to read as
7 follows:

8 “(D) encourage the development of prepa-
9 ration, forecast, analysis, mitigation, response,
10 and recovery systems for coastal hazards;”;

11 (2) in paragraph (2) by striking “program of
12 research, education,” and inserting “program of in-
13 tegrated research, education, extension,”; and

14 (3) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(6) The National Ocean Research Priorities
17 Plan and Implementation Strategy issued by the Na-
18 tional Science and Technology Council’s Joint Sub-
19 committee on Ocean Science and Technology on
20 January 26, 2007, identifies research priorities for
21 compelling areas of interaction between society and
22 the ocean, and calls for the engagement of a broad
23 array of ocean science sectors (government, aca-
24 demia, industry, and non-government entities) to ad-

1 dress the areas of greatest research need and oppor-
2 tunity.

3 “(7) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration, through the national sea grant col-
5 lege program, offers the most suitable locus and
6 means for such commitment and engagement
7 through the promotion of activities that will result in
8 greater such understanding, assessment, develop-
9 ment, utilization, and conservation. The most cost-
10 effective way to promote such activities is through
11 continued and increased Federal support of the es-
12 tablishment, development, and operation of pro-
13 grams and projects by sea grant colleges, sea grant
14 institutes, and other institutions, including strong
15 collaborations between Administration scientists and
16 research and outreach personnel at academic institu-
17 tions.”.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—Section 202(c) (33 U.S.C. 1121(c))
19 is amended by striking “to promote research, education,
20 training, and advisory service activities” and inserting “to
21 promote integrated research, education, training, and ex-
22 tension activities”.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 203 (33 U.S.C. 1122) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking “advisory
2 services” and inserting “extension services”;

3 (2) in each of paragraphs (12) and (13) by
4 striking “(33 U.S.C. 1126)”; and

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

6 “(17) The term ‘regional research and informa-
7 tion plan’ means a plan developed by one or more
8 sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes that identi-
9 fies regional priorities to implement the National
10 Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation
11 Strategy.

12 “(18) The term ‘National Ocean Research Pri-
13 orities Plan and Implementation Strategy’ means
14 such plan and strategy issued by the National
15 Science and Technology Council’s Joint Sub-
16 committee on Ocean Science and Technology on
17 January 26, 2007.”.

18 (b) REPEAL.—Section 307 of the Flower Garden Na-
19 tional Marine Sanctuary Act (Public Law 102–251; 106
20 Stat. 66) is repealed.

21 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM, GEN-**
22 **ERALLY.**

23 (a) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 204(b) (33
24 U.S.C. 1123(b)) is amended—

1 (1) by amending in paragraph (1) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(1) sea grant programs that comprise a na-
4 tional sea grant college program network, including
5 international projects conducted within such pro-
6 grams and regional and national projects conducted
7 among such programs;”;

8 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(2) administration of the national sea grant
11 college program and this title by the national sea
12 grant office and the Administration;”;

13 (3) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(4) any regional or national strategic invest-
16 ments in fields relating to ocean, coastal, and Great
17 Lakes resources developed in consultation with the
18 board and with the approval of the sea grant col-
19 leges and the sea grant institutes.”.

20 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 204(c)(1)
21 (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(1)) is amended by striking “Within
22 6 months of the date of enactment of the National Sea
23 Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, the”
24 and inserting “The”.

1 (c) FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SEA
2 GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.—Section 204(d) (33 U.S.C.
3 1123(d)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “long
5 range”;

6 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

7 (A) by striking “(A)(i) evaluate” and in-
8 serting “(A) evaluate and assess”;

9 (B) by striking “activities; and” and in-
10 serting “activities;”; and

11 (C) by striking clause (ii); and

12 (3) in paragraph (3)(B)—

13 (A) by redesignating clauses (ii) through
14 (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively,
15 and by inserting after clause (i) the following:

16 “(ii) encourage collaborations among
17 sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes
18 to address regional and national priorities
19 established under subsection (c)(1);” and

20 (B) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated) by
21 striking “encourage” and inserting “ensuring”.

22 **SEC. 6. PROGRAM OR PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**

23 (a) EXEMPTION FROM LIMITATION ON COST
24 SHARE.—Section 205(a) (33 U.S.C. 1124(a)) is amended
25 in the matter following paragraph (2), by striking “section

1 204(c)(4)(F)” and inserting “section 204(d) or that are
2 appropriated under section 208(b)”.

3 (b) SPECIAL GRANTS; MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Section
4 205(b) (33 U.S.C. 1124(b)) is amended by striking the
5 matter following paragraph (3) and inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “The total amount that may be provided for grants under
8 this subsection during any fiscal year shall not exceed an
9 amount equal to 5 percent of the total funds appropriated
10 for such year under section 212.”.

11 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION SERVICES BY SEA GRANT COLLEGES**
12 **AND SEA GRANT INSTITUTES.**

13 Section 207(a) (33 U.S.C. 1126(a)) is amended in
14 each of paragraphs (2)(B) and (3)(B) by striking “advi-
15 sory services” and inserting “extension services”.

16 **SEC. 8. TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO FELLOW-**
17 **SHIPS.**

18 Section 208(a) (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by
19 striking “Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
20 ment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act
21 Amendments of 2002, and every 2 years thereafter,” and
22 inserting “Every 2 years,”.

23 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD.**

24 (a) REDESIGNATION OF SEA GRANT REVIEW PANEL
25 AS BOARD.—

1 (1) REDESIGNATION.—The sea grant review
2 panel established by section 209 of the National Sea
3 Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1128), as in
4 effect before the date of the enactment of this Act,
5 is redesignated as the National Sea Grant Advisory
6 Board.

7 (2) MEMBERSHIP NOT AFFECTED.—An indi-
8 vidual serving as a member of the sea grant review
9 panel immediately before the enactment of this Act
10 may continue to serve as a member of the National
11 Sea Grant Advisory Board until the expiration of
12 such member’s term under section 209(c) of such
13 Act (33 U.S.C. 1128(c)).

14 (3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
15 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
16 the United States to such sea grant review panel is
17 deemed to be a reference to the National Sea Grant
18 Advisory Board.

19 (4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 209 (33 U.S.C.
21 1128) is amended by striking so much as pre-
22 cedes subsection (b) and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 209. NATIONAL SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be an inde-
3 pendent committee to be known as the National Sea Grant
4 Advisory Board.”.

5 (B) DEFINITION.—Section 203(9) (33
6 U.S.C. 1122(9)) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(9) The term ‘Board’ means the National Sea
8 Grant Advisory Board established under section
9 209.”;

10 (C) OTHER PROVISIONS.—The following
11 provisions are each amended by striking
12 “panel” each place it appears and inserting
13 “Board”:

14 (i) Section 204 (33 U.S.C. 1123).

15 (ii) Section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126).

16 (iii) Section 209 (33 U.S.C. 1128).

17 (b) DUTIES.—Section 209(b) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)) is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 “(b) DUTIES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall advise the
21 Secretary and the Director concerning—

22 “(A) strategies for utilizing the sea grant
23 college program to address the Nation’s highest
24 priorities regarding the understanding, assess-
25 ment, development, utilization, and conservation
26 of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

1 “(B) the designation of sea grant colleges
2 and sea grant institutes; and

3 “(C) such other matters as the Secretary
4 refers to the Board for review and advice.

5 “(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Board shall re-
6 port to the Congress every two years on the state of
7 the national sea grant college program. The Board
8 shall indicate in each such report the progress made
9 toward meeting the priorities identified in the stra-
10 tegic plan in effect under section 204(c). The Sec-
11 retary shall make available to the Board such infor-
12 mation, personnel, and administrative services and
13 assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out
14 its duties under this title.”.

15 (c) EXTENSION OF TERM.—Section 209(c)(3) (33
16 U.S.C. 1128(c)) is amended by striking the second sen-
17 tence and inserting the following: “The Director may ex-
18 tend the term of office of a voting member of the Board
19 once by up to 1 year.”.

20 (d) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES.—Section
21 204(e) (33 U.S.C. 1123(e)) is amended by adding at the
22 end the following:

23 “(8) The Board may establish such subcommittees as
24 are reasonably necessary to carry out its duties under sub-

1 section (b). Such subcommittees may include individuals
2 who are not Board members.”.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 212(a) (33 U.S.C.
5 1131(a)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be
7 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title—

8 “(1) \$66,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

9 “(2) \$72,800,000 for fiscal year 2010;

10 “(3) \$79,600,000 for fiscal year 2011;

11 “(4) \$86,400,000 for fiscal year 2012;

12 “(5) \$93,200,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

13 “(6) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.”.

14 (b) REPEAL OF DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.—Sec-
15 tion 212 (33 U.S.C. 1131) is amended by striking sub-
16 section (c), and by redesignating subsections (d) and (e)
17 as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

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