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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation preparedness and response program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARBAJAL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation preparedness and response program, 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 “Coastal State Climate  
5 Preparedness Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS IN THE COAST-**  
2 **AL ZONE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coastal Zone Management  
4 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by add-  
5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 320. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PREPAREDNESS**  
7 **AND RESPONSE PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish,  
9 consistent with the national policies set forth in section  
10 303, a coastal climate change adaptation preparedness  
11 and response program to—

12 “(1) provide assistance to coastal States to vol-  
13 untarily develop coastal climate change adaptation  
14 plans, pursuant to approved management programs  
15 approved under section 306, to minimize contribu-  
16 tions to climate change and to prepare for and re-  
17 duce the negative consequences that may result from  
18 climate change in the coastal zone; and

19 “(2) provide financial and technical assistance  
20 and training to enable coastal States to implement  
21 plans developed pursuant to this section through  
22 coastal States’ enforceable policies.

23 “(b) COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION  
24 PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS GRANTS.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a  
26 grant to any coastal State for the purpose of devel-

1       oping climate change adaptation plans pursuant to  
2       guidelines issued by the Secretary under paragraph  
3       (8).

4               “(2) PLAN CONTENT.—A plan developed with a  
5       grant under this subsection shall include the fol-  
6       lowing:

7                       “(A) Identification of public facilities and  
8                       public services, working waterfronts, coastal re-  
9                       sources of national significance, coastal waters,  
10                      energy facilities, or other land and water uses  
11                      located in the coastal zone that are likely to be  
12                      impacted by climate change.

13                     “(B) Adaptive management strategies for  
14                     land use to respond or adapt to changing envi-  
15                     ronmental conditions, including strategies to  
16                     protect biodiversity, protect water quality, and  
17                     establish habitat buffer zones, migration cor-  
18                     ridors, and climate refugia.

19                     “(C) Adaptive management strategies for  
20                     ocean-based ecosystems and resources, includ-  
21                     ing strategies to plan for and respond to geo-  
22                     graphic or temporal shifts in marine resources,  
23                     to create protected areas that will provide cli-  
24                     mate refugia, and to maintain and restore  
25                     ocean ecosystem function.

1           “(D) Requirements to initiate and main-  
2           tain long-term monitoring of environmental  
3           change to assess coastal zone adaptation and to  
4           adjust when necessary adaptive management  
5           strategies and new planning guidelines to attain  
6           the policies under section 303.

7           “(E) Other information considered nec-  
8           essary by the Secretary to identify the full  
9           range of climate change impacts affecting coast-  
10          al communities.

11          “(3) STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS.—  
12          Plans developed with a grant under this subsection  
13          shall be consistent with State hazard mitigation  
14          plans and natural disaster response and recovery  
15          programs developed under State or Federal law.

16          “(4) ALLOCATION.—Grants under this sub-  
17          section shall be available only to coastal States with  
18          management programs approved by the Secretary  
19          under section 306 and shall be allocated among such  
20          coastal States in a manner consistent with regula-  
21          tions promulgated pursuant to section 306(e).

22          “(5) PRIORITY.—In the awarding of grants  
23          under this subsection, the Secretary may give pri-  
24          ority to any coastal State that has received grant  
25          funding to develop program changes pursuant to

1 paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of sec-  
2 tion 309(a).

3 “(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
4 may provide technical assistance to a coastal State  
5 consistent with section 310 to ensure the timely de-  
6 velopment of plans supported by grants awarded  
7 under this subsection.

8 “(7) FEDERAL APPROVAL.—In order to be eligi-  
9 ble for a grant under subsection (c), a coastal State  
10 must have its plan developed under this subsection  
11 approved by the Secretary.

12 “(8) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days  
13 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
14 retary, in consultation with the coastal States, shall  
15 issue guidelines for the implementation of the grant  
16 program established under this subsection.

17 “(c) COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION  
18 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
20 grants to any coastal State that has a climate  
21 change adaptation plan approved under subsection  
22 (b)(7), in order to support projects that implement  
23 strategies contained within such plans.

24 “(2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-  
25 retary, not later than 90 days after approval of the

1 first plan approved under subsection (b)(7), shall  
2 publish in the Federal Register requirements regard-  
3 ing applications, allocations, eligible activities, and  
4 all terms and conditions for grants awarded under  
5 this subsection. No less than 30 percent, and no  
6 more than 50 percent, of the funds appropriated in  
7 any fiscal year for grants under this subsection shall  
8 be awarded through a merit-based competitive pro-  
9 cess.

10 “(3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary  
11 may award grants to coastal States to implement  
12 projects in the coastal zone to address stress factors  
13 in order to improve coastal climate change adapta-  
14 tion, including the following:

15 “(A) Activities to address physical disturb-  
16 ances within the coastal zone, especially activi-  
17 ties related to public facilities and public serv-  
18 ices, tourism, sedimentation, ocean acidification,  
19 and other factors negatively impacting coastal  
20 waters.

21 “(B) Monitoring, control, or eradication of  
22 disease organisms and invasive species.

23 “(C) Activities to address the loss, deg-  
24 radation, or fragmentation of wildlife habitat  
25 through projects to establish or protect marine

1 and terrestrial habitat buffers, wildlife refugia,  
2 other wildlife refuges, or networks thereof, pres-  
3 ervation of migratory wildlife corridors and  
4 other transition zones, and restoration of fish  
5 and wildlife habitat.

6 “(D) Projects, with priority given to such  
7 projects that use green infrastructure solutions,  
8 to reduce, mitigate, or otherwise address likely  
9 impacts caused by natural hazards in the coast-  
10 al zone, including sea level rise, coastal inunda-  
11 tion, storm water management, coastal erosion  
12 and subsidence, severe weather events such as  
13 cyclonic storms, tsunamis and other seismic  
14 threats, and fluctuating Great Lakes water lev-  
15 els.

16 “(E) Projects to adapt existing infrastruc-  
17 ture, including enhancements to both built and  
18 natural environments.

19 “(F) Provision of technical training and  
20 assistance to local coastal policy makers to in-  
21 crease awareness of science, management, and  
22 technology information related to climate  
23 change and adaptation strategies.

24 “(4) PROMOTION AND USE OF NATIONAL ESTU-  
25 ARINE RESEARCH RESERVES.—The Secretary shall

1 promote and encourage the use of National Estua-  
2 rine Research Reserves as sites for pilot or dem-  
3 onstration projects carried out with grants awarded  
4 under this section.”.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
6 318(a) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16  
7 U.S.C. 1464(a)) is amended—

8 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the  
9 end of paragraph (1);

10 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
11 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(3) for grants under section 320, such sums  
14 as are necessary.”.

15 (c) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—None of the amend-  
16 ments made by this section shall be construed to require  
17 any coastal State to amend or modify its approved man-  
18 agement program pursuant to section 306(e) of the Coast-  
19 al Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1455(e)) or  
20 to extend the enforceable policies of a coastal State beyond  
21 the coastal zone as identified in the coastal State’s ap-  
22 proved management program.