

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4044

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland for implementation of a program to eradicate nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2002

Mr. GILCHREST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland for implementation of a program to eradicate nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay provide significant cultural, economic,  
6       and ecological benefits to the Nation.  
7

1           (2) The South American nutria (*Myocastor*  
2           *coypus*) is directly contributing to substantial marsh  
3           loss in Maryland on Federal, State, and private  
4           land.

5           (3) Traditional harvest methods to control or  
6           eradicate nutria have failed. Consequently, marsh  
7           loss is accelerating.

8           (4) The nutria eradication and control pilot  
9           program authorized by Public Law 105–322 is to  
10          develop new and effective methods for eradication of  
11          nutria.

12          (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
13          ize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assist-  
14          ance to the State of Maryland for a program to implement  
15          measures to eradicate nutria and restore marshland dam-  
16          aged by nutria.

17          **SEC. 2. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

18          (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
19          rior (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”), sub-  
20          ject to the availability of appropriations, may provide fi-  
21          nancial assistance to the State of Maryland for a program  
22          to implement measures to eradicate nutria and restore  
23          marshland damaged by nutria.

24          (b) GOALS.—The goals of the program shall be to—

25                  (1) eradicate nutria in Maryland;

1           (2) eradicate or control nutria in other States;  
2           and

3           (3) restore marshland damaged by nutria.

4           (c) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall require that the  
5 program consist of management, research, and public edu-  
6 cation activities carried out in accordance with the docu-  
7 ment published by the United States Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service entitled “Eradication Strategies for Nutria in the  
9 Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Watersheds”, dated March  
10 2002.

11          (d) COST SHARING.—

12           (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
13 the costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent  
14 of the total costs of the program.

15           (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-  
16 eral share of the costs of the program may be pro-  
17 vided in the form of in-kind contributions of mate-  
18 rials or services.

19          (e) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

20 Not more than 10 percent of financial assistance provided  
21 by the Secretary under this section may be used for ad-  
22 ministrative expenses.

23          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For fi-  
24 nancial assistance under this section, there is authorized

1 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for each  
2 of fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

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